



# Striving Towards Excellence

## Philippians 3:14

### Being Prepared in an Unpredictable World

#### Keeping Your Congregation Safe

The recent church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, which resulted in over two dozen deaths, is a heart wrenching incident. We want our church building to be a safe place for our members, but we live in an unpredictable world. The vulnerability of churches to such senseless acts of violence has increased, but there are steps you can take to keep your congregation safe.

**An important step is starting and maintaining a Risk Management Team.** The team works together to develop a security plan and educate the congregation. A good plan is created by obtaining resources and seeking training for risk management response. The team should be composed of three to eight members who will take a proactive view of risk management. Members could include current or former law officers or military personnel, facility managers, or those with a background in insurance, claims, or risk management. The team should meet at least quarterly. The goal is to integrate safety and security measures into the daily life of the congregation without compromising the church's ministry.

**Following are additional steps that can be taken to keep your congregation safe.** In partnership with your local law enforcement, conduct a security assessment to identify your church's vulnerabilities. Law enforcement can also help train staff, frontline workers, and volunteers on responding to potentially violent situations. Develop defined roles for all staff persons, including greeters, ushers, and other frontline workers and volunteers. Establish a method for quickly communicating issues of concern. Read more safety tips on the reverse.

#### CHUPP AGENCY UPDATE

As we near the end of 2017 Chupp Insurance has some exciting updates to share with you.

First, we have added GuideOne Insurance as another avenue to better serve our church and non-profit community. They are one of the nation's leading non-profit/faith-based church insurance companies. GuideOne has the vision and offerings to serve non-profits well. We are very excited about our strategic partnership with them. They have already served several new and long term clients with unique and competitive products. Watch for additional information regarding GuideOne in the future.

Secondly, we are excited to welcome Audra Franz to our team. Audra is a great addition to our commercial department and there is a good chance she will interact with many of our churches and non-profits. Additional staffing over the past two years has allowed us to keep our service work in office. In an era of calling service centers, sometimes in others states or even countries, we are committed to providing direct, personal service between individuals that know and appreciate each other. As fellow Christian believers, sharing your values and partnering with your ministry is very important to all of us at Chupp Insurance.

Finally, we are happy to report that the Lord has blessed us not only as a company but also individually. Rod and Tammy welcomed a daughter-in-law in June, will welcome a son-in-law this coming April, and celebrated their daughter's college graduation and her subsequent ministry endeavor with Youth for Christ. Kelsey and husband Eric celebrated the birth of their first child, Bowie Ann, on November 13.

We greatly anticipate the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Seasons that allow for spending time on family, serving others, and worshipping our Gracious Lord. He truly is the reason for the ministry we share.

Rodney Chupp, CIC



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PROTECTING YOUR PEOPLE

#### E-mail Address Request

Do we have correct e-mail addresses for your ministry contacts? Send them to [audra@chuppinsurance.com](mailto:audra@chuppinsurance.com) so we can keep you informed and up to date with news you need to know.

## What to Do in the Event of a Violent Incident

If a violent incident occurs at your church, the first priority is to protect the people in your congregation. To do this, follow these steps:

- ✓ Call 911.
- ✓ If there is an opportunity to keep the invader out by locking doors and/or closing off areas of the church, do so.
- ✓ If there is an opportunity to remove all members and guests from the premises, do so as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Quickly control panic situations. By doing so, you will be more likely to conduct a sequenced evacuation, if possible.
- ✓ A leader, such as the pastor and/or security director, must take charge and provide orders to be followed.
- ✓ All orders must be clear and direct, such as the following:
  - ✓ "Ushers, secure the building."
  - ✓ "(Fill in name), contact the police."
  - ✓ "(Fill in name), secure the nursery."
  - ✓ "Everyone, take cover on the floor."

## How to Make Your Church Staff and Members Less Vulnerable

- ✓ Never allow staff to work alone. Always ensure at least two employees are present at all times.
- ✓ Establish an internal distress code that will alert others in the office to your need for assistance.
- ✓ Keep all church doors locked except when in use and limit access points.
- ✓ Consider installation of a "panic button" for frontline workers such as receptionists.
- ✓ Ensure exterior lighting is adequate in all areas.
- ✓ Always park your car in a well-lit area that is not obstructed by shrubbery, dumpsters, trucks, or vans.
- ✓ Ensure all staff know of and understand the church's security plan.
- ✓ Know where all telephones are located.
- ✓ Prepare for the worst case scenario.

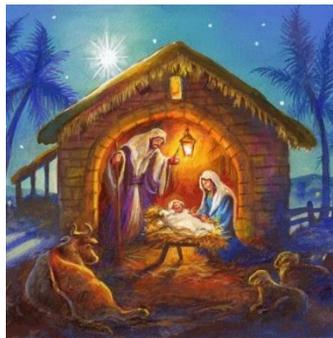
## Starting a Safety Ministry

Focusing on three basic concepts can help you start an effective Safety Ministry at your church.

**VALUE** – RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THE PEOPLE AND FACILITIES UNDER YOUR CARE, AND EMBRACE THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY AS A KEY VALUE. Focusing on the values of shepherding, stewardship, and love may help to motivate your church to protect the valuable ministry and members under your care.

**TEAM** – ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO SAFETY AND SECURITY. While pastoral or board participation on the team is not essential, pastoral and board support is crucial to the team's success.

**WORK** – SET THE TEAM TO WORK, ASSISTED BY THE MANY VALUABLE SAFETY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH CHUPP INSURANCE AGENCY.



While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.  
Luke 2:6-7

## 10 Steps to a Safer Church

1. FORM A SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAM
2. REGULARLY INSPECT YOUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
3. REMOVE SNOW AND ICE PROMPTLY
4. GUARD AGAINST WATER DAMAGE
5. HAVE YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM INSPECTED
6. FOLLOW THE "5 L'S OF CRIME PREVENTION"
  - a. LOCK UP – doors and windows
  - b. LIGHTING – exterior and interior
  - c. LANDSCAPING – prevent hiding places
  - d. LOOKOUT – Church Watch program
  - e. LAW ENFORCEMENT – involvement
7. USE SURGE PROTECTION
8. PLAN AND PROPERLY SUPERVISE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
9. SCREEN WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN
10. HIRE COMPETENT AND INSURED CONTRACTORS