



How to survive an Active Shooter Situation Executive Summary – Churches

Statistics

- So far in the 21st century, an average of 552 work-related homicides occurred annually in the U.S. - *National Institute for Prevention of Workplace Violence.*
- 176 deadly force incidents were documented nationwide at churches and faith-based organizations in 2014. - *Church Law and Tax.*
- Numerous organizations including the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Department of Education, the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) agree that a one-option approach (i.e. lockdown) is not sufficient. Staff and Members need to have multiple options at their disposal (Run, Hide, Fight, etc.).

History

- One person was killed and seven others were wounded after a gunman opened fire at a church in Antioch, Tennessee on October 1, 2017. Shooting ended when an armed civilian church member subdued the shooter until law enforcement arrived.
- The folks at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina had no training or procedures in place for an active shooter situation. On the evening of June 17, 2015, during a prayer service, nine people were killed by a gunman, including the senior pastor, state senator Clementa C. Pinckney; a tenth victim survived.
- February 14, 2010 – Richmond, California – Three hooded men walk into Gethsemane Church of God in Christ and opened fire and then fled the scene, as the singing of the choir was replaced by frightened screams. The two victims, a 14-year-old boy and a 19-year-old man, were hospitalized.

Plan of Action Needed

Churches must become **pro-active, not reactive**, in making staff and church members aware of key principles that will empower them to make life-saving decisions in the heat of the moment that will buy time and save lives. As Benjamin Franklin once said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Preventing an active shooter situation is **impossible**. There is no demographic or profile that will predict where the next situation might occur. However, when “lightning strikes,” your staff must be able to respond with simple steps to keeping themselves safe. It requires building a culture of people who have a mental awareness to their surroundings and clearly defined action steps. Properly empowering you church members and training **safety team members** is a necessary component in the proactive defense of our nation’s churches.

Common sense is not common knowledge. **The body cannot go where the mind has never been.** All we need to be able to do is buy time before law enforcement arrives to end the situation. How do you properly break a window? How do you a barricade a door that swings into the hallway? Entirely possible and easy to do, but it simply requires training.



We can't stop a lawsuit from arriving after an active situation occurs. However, by having a plan in place and making training available to staff and members, the risk associated with a lawsuit is mitigated.

This cutting-edge, violence-saturated world that we now live in has created problems and pains that we have never had to deal with in previous generations. We must respond with cutting-edge, dynamic solutions in order to mitigate our risk associated with these problems.

These principles are *life principles* that every person needs to know for the rest of their lives.

The following items have been specifically designed to facilitate a culture shift in your church as you seek to address these issues.

Training Will Cover:

(90 minute session)

- **How to Survive an Active Shooter Training**
 - Case studies of previous shootings and the lessons we can learn from the past
 - Overview of the Alert, Run, Hide, Fight principles for survival, endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security.
 - Alert: Notify 911 and the members of the church immediately of the situation at hand through all available communication devices.
 - Run: If possible, get out of harm's way. Get to safety. Learn how to properly break a window.
 - Hide: If you don't have information about the shooter's whereabouts, learn how to barricade doors that open out.
 - Fight: If the shooter walks into your room then you must be prepared to disrupt his thought process and buy time. Learn simple tactics to increase your chance of survival.
- **Handouts provided for Attendees**

Implementation

Training is customizable to the uniqueness of your church/members. A session can be 1 to 4 hours in length, depending the level of detail, drills, and discussion that is provided. It is recommended that training be held as mandatory for all staff and as many members as possible.

Additionally, refresher courses are recommended for new staff and new members annually.

For more information or to schedule training please contact us at 888-533-9123.

Sincerely,

TBG Solutions Inc.