

Place of Worship Assessment for Safety and Security

Course Description:

This course is for all “Places of Worship.” The term “Church” will be used interchangeably with and for “Places of Worship”.

This course outlines measures to reduce risks and provide a secure environment for leadership, congregants and visitors. It will give you the tools to assess the safety and security of people, places, property, programs and processes. Church safety/ security seems to be a contradiction, but churches everywhere have been compelled to seriously address this issue. No place is sacred to the criminal, terrorist or natural disaster. All churches, large and small, are vulnerable. Church violence is a nightmare to every member and visitor. Natural disasters often occur without warning. There is no possible way to predict the “if, what, when and where” of a violent act or natural disaster. The key is to be prepared ahead of time and ready to act in the event of a disaster or hostile act.

In protecting lives, preparation is the proven key to success.

The Church Safety/Security Team members may have to deal with issues involving lost children, administration of first aid, de-escalation or containment of mentally unstable individuals, security for the “offering,” pastor/staff protection, security of all church special events and activities, and the list goes on.

After much prayerful consideration, we believe that the reasonable steps outlined in this course will bring worshipers together in a safer and more secure spiritual experience.

Course Texts:

PLACES OF WORSHIP SAFETY AND SECURITY: FIVE COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM - Tina Lewis Rowe

HOW TO ASSESS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP - Tina Lewis Rowe

THE ROLE OF GREETERS AND USHERS IN CHURCH SECURITY - Tina Lewis Rowe

Course Objectives:

- You will quote each of the following Scriptures:
 - ✓ *Matthew 10:16* “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”
 - ✓ *Matthew 10:22* “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
 - ✓ *Hebrews 13:5b* “...for He hath said, I will never leave thee or forsake thee.”
 - ✓ *Nehemiah 4:9* “Nevertheless, we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.”
- You will learn the importance of a Safety and Security Assessment of your Place of Worship.
- You will learn the five areas of focus in conducting a Safety and Security Assessment.
- You will learn how to conduct a Safety and Security Assessment.
- You will define and understand the concepts of Macro, Median and Micro views and the importance of each.
- You will evaluate the safety/security of Clergy, Leadership, Congregants and Visitors.
- You will evaluate the safety/security of your Place of Worship.
- You will evaluate the safety/security of your Assets.
- You will evaluate the safety/security of your Programs.

- You will evaluate the safety/security of your Processes.
- You will evaluate the current condition of your safety, security and preparedness for an emergency.
- You will evaluate and consider types of risks, sources and nature of threats and criticality of harm.
- You will consider factors that would enable prevention, deterrence, protection, detection, resistance and response.
- You will thoroughly assess by reviewing and inspecting:
 - ✓ **Safety** (accidents, illness, injuries, potential harm to people or the organization.)
 - ✓ **Security** (crimes, violence, loss or damage from any cause)
 - ✓ **Emergency preparedness** (response and recovery related to any harmful event or situation of any kind—including plans to be a resource for assistance if an emergency occurs in the community.)
 - ✓ **Continuity planning** (Preparedness to continue services and programs without significant interruption.)
 - ✓ **The overall status of each component of a safe and secure place of worship.** (Anything related to the place of worship or its assets and activities that can be inspected, reviewed, inventoried or evaluated, as designated by church leaders.)
- You will incorporate in your assessment all of the terms used to describe the concept: site survey, audit, safety inspection, and emergency preparedness assessment.
- You will learn how to establish an assessment team.
- You will learn to identify resources outside your place of worship that can assist in keeping your place of worship safe and secure.
- You will journal and keep accurate notes of your evaluations and assessments.
- You will write a “Security and Safety Assessment” of your Place of Worship.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Course Requirements:

1. Prayerfully read the entire texts as assigned.
2. Keep a Journal and continue it throughout the entire course of all safety and security thoughts and evaluations. (Your Journal will be periodically submitted to you instructor for review).
3. Keep a written or electronic assessment of the safety and security of your place of worship corresponding to the section being studied. (Your completed assessment will be submitted to your instructor for review and grading). **Your completed assessment will be your final exam.**
4. Complete the reading and writing assignments for each lesson
 - a. The writing assignments **WILL** be submitted to your instructor for grading on completeness, so prepare your answers in the way best suited to get the information to your instructor. ***Your instructors strongly prefer to receive your work as email attachments.*** If for any reason you are unable to email your work, you may send a physical copy of your assignments to your instructor. **However, keep in mind that the postal service makes**

no guarantees on the safety of your work so be sure you send a COPY, not your original work. This is especially true if your instructor lives in a different country than you and you will be sending it across international borders.

- b. “Text Questions and Exercises” are to be completed and they **WILL** be submitted to your instructor for grading. **Follow the instructions for “a” above.**

NOTE WHEN COMPLETING THE ASSIGNMENTS: As much as possible, do not simply answer the questions out of your own thoughts, ability and background. Use the questions as springboards to journaling, listening to the Lord and recording what He has to say to you about them. Your “wisdom” is limited and will never take you to the destiny God has designed you for! ALSO, be sure to journal whenever the Related Objectives call you to, and take your journaling seriously enough to remember what God has to say to you.

5. Earn at least a “B” on the Mid-term and “Security and Safety Assessment”. The Lesson Objectives are key to your success on the tests.

CHU101 Place of Worship Assessment for Safety and Security

Assignment Schedule

Lesson One – INTRODUCTION

Assignment to be completed:

Completely read:

PLACES OF WORSHIP SAFETY AND SECURITY: FIVE COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM - Tina Lewis Rowe

Pages 1 thru 6 of *HOW TO ASSESS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP* - Tina Lewis Rowe

Begin a journal of your thoughts and evaluations.

Memorize:

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Complete the following questions that are also in **BOTH BOXES** on Page 2 of *PLACES OF WORSHIP SAFETY AND SECURITY: FIVE COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM*. Complete them on separate pages as needed.

When answering the questions be sure to assess and elaborate on each area that is listed, i.e. risk factors for your building(s), risk factors for your pastor, risk factors for your staff etc.

1. What are some unique risk factors for your place of worship? Consider the building or campus, pastors, staff, activities, special groups or people, notoriety, size, etc.
2. Looking at the graphic on page 1 of the text and the list below the graphic, how prepared do you think the leaders, adults in charge or others are for an emergency at your church?
3. Would you say the safety and security program is as "big picture" as optimal?
4. What might be missing?
5. Is your church providing guidance to those who may need to know how to respond and assist others in an emergency?
6. Have you tested to see if they know?
7. Who would be a good addition to the safety and security committee in your place of worship?
8. Who could be an occasional resource?

9. Would it be possible to include a wider range of ages and capabilities? (Consider this, as a way to make the program truly whole-church.)

Write a two-page composition on the "need" for safety and security in places of worship.

Write a one-page composition about the influence your personal beliefs have over safety and security in places of worship.

Write a three-page composition stating and discussing the five components and areas of focus of a thorough Safety and Security Program and Assessment.

Write a one-page composition about the concepts of Macro, Median and Micro views.

NOTE WHEN COMPLETING THE ASSIGNMENTS: As much as possible, do not simply answer the questions out of your own thoughts, ability and background. Use the questions as springboards to journaling, listening to the Lord and recording what He has to say to you about them. Your "wisdom" is limited and will never take you to the destiny God has designed you for!

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Five Components of a Comprehensive Safety and Security Program

Focus areas of a Comprehensive Safety and Security Program

Related Objectives:

- You will understand the "need" for safety and security in places of worship.
- You will examine the influence your beliefs have over safety and security in places of worship.
- You will understand the five components and areas of focus of a thorough Safety and Security Program and Assessment.
- You will understand the concepts of Macro, Median and Micro views.