

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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TOP NEWS STORY

Man Shoots Two People at Church Wedding

A pastor was fatally shot during an alleged robbery at his church. Police received reports of an “unresponsive” man at the church and found the pastor in need of severe medical attention. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. Police discovered that a confrontation had happened outside the church. The suspect was found and questioned by police. He has been charged with first-degree murder and first-degree robbery. [Click the link to read more]

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this news story does not necessarily reflect the views of Sheepdog Church Security.

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Arson Prevention and Fire Drills for Churches

This downloadable bundle contains a fully customizable Powerpoint® Presentation, Microsoft Office® files and PDF files.

Slide Presentation: The slides teach you how to conduct a fire safety inspection within your church, and then create a detailed, accurate fire response plan. It also educates leaders and church members on fire safety and evacuation procedures, and helps you identify and address fire safety

threats throughout the grounds and within the physical structure.

Instructor Guide: The guide is designed to not only disseminate important fire safety information, but to help you teach that information to Church Safety Team members. This guide includes vital training on types of evacuations, evacuation procedures, protecting individuals with disabilities, creating evacuation staging areas, and more.

Streaming Video: In addition to the downloadable files, you get online access to our course videos for one year. They are great way to prepare yourself to teach the material and they can even be used in a classroom setting until you are more comfortable teaching.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info.



”TO ENSURE YOU ARE WELL PREPARED TO PROTECT YOUR CONGREGATION AND SAFEGUARD THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE, WE OFFER THE ARSON PREVENTION AND FIRE DRILLS FOR CHURCHES COURSE.”

WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Fire Prevention and Evacuation: *Keeping the Flock Safe from Fire*

Save others by snatching them out of the fire. (Jude 1:23)

National Fire Prevention Month

Since 1922, October has been National Fire Prevention Month in the United States and Canada. Within this month is Fire Prevention Week, which includes Fire Prevention Day on October 9. This is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, when about 300 people died. Fire Prevention Week in 2019 is October 6-12.

Fire Safety in Church

October's articles are based on the Sheepdog Church Security Training Course "Arson Prevention and Fire Drills for Churches." They are "Spark" (How Do Fires Start?), "Block It" (Preventing a Conflagration), "Quench It" (Fire Suppression), and "Out from Danger" (Evacuations and Fire Drills).

About 86½ years after the Great Chicago Fire, another fire took the lives of 92 students and three of their teachers in Our

Lady of the Angels School in Chicago. This sparked fire safety programs with fire drills at schools across the country. On a personal note, when I was in the First Grade in Nome, Alaska, seven children died in a house fire. We passed that house on our way into town from the Signal Corps station. It was a constant reminder of the danger of fire.

It is critical to practice fire safety in our churches. Key players in church fire safety are safety ministry members. They can guide church leadership in fireproofing a church, promoting fire safe practices, and planning and conducting fire drills. They can lead by example.

Action Points

1. Read all the weekly articles and (especially) listen to the podcasts.
2. Discuss fire safety with others, including Safety Ministry members, other church members, family, co-workers, and neighbors.
3. If you are new, take the training course, "Arson Prevention and Fire Drills for Churches." If it has been a couple of years since taking it, take it again as a refresher. There may also be some new material.
4. Participate in fireproofing your church. Always be on the lookout for fire hazards.
5. Volunteer to help with and participate in a fire drill.
6. Plan and practice your own family's escape from a house fire. Also, fireproof your home.



The Spark: How do fires start?

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Various kinds of thefts in churches are reported in the news:

Burglary

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 9, 2019 – A church next door to a fire station was heavily damaged in a Monday afternoon fire. A crew repairing the roof got out safely, but one firefighter was injured. The cause is under investigation, but the construction of the ceiling made fighting the fire more difficult.[2] Chicago, Illinois, December 1, 1958 – Ninety-five persons (3 nuns and 92 students) died in a fire at Our Lady of the Angels School. The fire began in a trash container at the foot of a stairwell. This tragedy sparked a



movement for fire safety in schools across North America and in Europe with an emphasis on planned evacuation routes and fire drills. [3]

Greely, Colorado, July 7, 2019 – Lightning struck the steeple of a church in Greely during a Sunday evening service, causing a fire. The 180 congregants were safely evacuated.[4]

New York City, May 1, 2016 – the fire that destroyed the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan was probably caused by smoldering candles not properly disposed.[5] Middletown, Ohio, January 22, 2019 – A teen-age boy broke into a church early Sunday morning, stole money aitems, then set the church on fire. A second teen was charged with receiving stolen property and not reporting a crime. [6]

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

JAMES 3:5

Now if anyone builds ... with ... wood, hay, straw, it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done

1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-13

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes?

PROVERBS 6:27

As fire consumes the forest, as the flame sets the mountains ablaze

PSALM 83:14

And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them

2 SAMUEL 22:15

THE SPARK CONTINUED...

The Two Faces of Fire

An old saying (at least as far back as the 1700s) is, "Fire is a good servant but a bad master." Fire has many uses: heating buildings, cooking, hot water, refining metals, propelling vehicles. In each of these cases, the fire is controlled. Uncontrolled fire is destructive, even fearsome. Examples of this are vehicle fires, house fires, and wildfires. Understanding what fire is, how it starts, and how it can be quenched is the key to knowing how to control it.

The Fire Triangle

One thing all fires have in common is putting together the three elements of a fire: Fuel, Oxygen, and Heat. Fire prevention keeps at least one element out of the equation. Fire suppression blocks or removes at least one of these. For church safety ministries seeking to improve fire safety, this means they look for places where these three elements might all be present and could be brought together, then seek to block or remove at least one of these elements, at least keeping them apart.

Causes of Church Fires

One major responsibility of state and local fire marshals is the investigation of fires to determine their causes. This not only assigns liability for fires, but contributes to knowledge which is applied to fire prevention. Causes of church fires fall into a number of categories: Natural Causes, Physical Causes, and Behavioral Causes.

Natural Causes

Natural causes of fire are referenced in the Bible. The most common is lightning. Electric discharges in the atmosphere are essential to life on Earth, since they create nitric acid which comes down in thundershowers is converted to nutrients by organisms in the soil. On the other hand, when lightning strikes objects on the ground - such as buildings - it causes fires. Most wildfires in the Pacific Northwest are caused by lightning. Properly designed, installed, and maintained lightning rods have spared many churches from fire. Another natural cause of fire is spontaneous combustion. At least it is a natural cause when decaying vegetative matter builds up enough heat to ignite. This can be prevented around the church by not letting outside debris build up. In a few areas, such as the Big Island of Hawaii, and settlements on the slopes of volcanoes in the Cascades, Sierra Nevada, Alaska, or Mexico and Central America, volcanic activity is a potential natural cause, as evidenced in the Kilauea eruptions of 2018. However, it is considered rare. The only reasonable way to prevent this is to build outside likely lava or pyroclastic flow zones. Earthquakes can cause fires in populated areas, such as the 1906 San Francisco Quake. The November 30, 2018 Anchorage Earthquake downed a power line, starting a fire in a church. [7]

Physical Causes Here we are speaking of fire started by human-made objects. Spontaneous combustion of oily rags should be considered not natural, but physical. Also included is ignition by chemical reactions. However, the most common physical causes are overloaded electrical wiring, electrical shorts, friction in worn-down moving parts (such as in a fan), and malfunctioning heating systems. Engine fires in vehicles can spread to adjacent buildings, especially when they are in garages.

Behavioral Causes

Behavioral causes of fire fall into a few categories: Carelessness, Negligence, Ignorance, and Arson.

Carelessness

Carelessness is, collectively, the most common behavioral cause of fires. Campfires improperly

THE SPARK CONTINUED...

made and left unattended or not properly extinguished have started many wildfires. Smoking items - such as cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco - have started their share of fires. This includes cigarettes left in upholstery or dropped into mulch or trash containers, smoking in bed, and lighting up around volatile flammable liquids (such as gasoline). Leaving oily rags in burnable containers is carelessness which may lead to fire. So is

leaving reactive chemicals where they can leak or spill and mix. Other fire-causing carelessness includes leaving food unattended on hot burners, leaving combustible materials too close to heat sources, and improper disposal of hot waste (such as fireplace ashes or candles).

Negligence

Some physical causes of fire can be chalked up to negligence. This includes not having furnaces cleaned and inspected before the heating season begins, not maintaining mechanical equipment, not replacing worn-out equipment, and not evaluating and updating the church's electrical wiring.

Ignorance

Let's face it! We don't know everything. Some fire hazards might not be addressed because they are not recognized or we don't know what to do about them. Ask your church's insurance provider to advise you on what to look for and how to remedy fire hazards. Also, even if your church may be exempt from fire inspections (in some places they are), invite the fire department to inspect the premises and point out issues that should be taken care of. After all, what we don't know can hurt us.

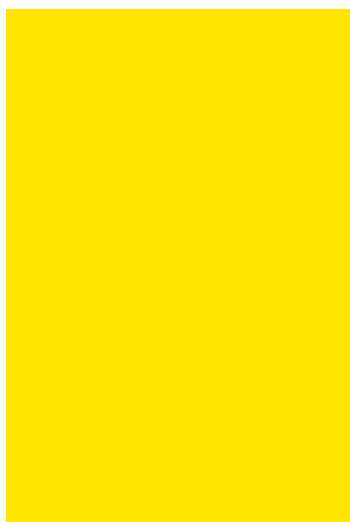
Arson

A common cause of church fires is arson. It may be an attempt to cover up a burglary, as in Middletown. It may be vandalism. Some fires are set by mentally ill persons and pyromaniacs. Several fires have been set as hate crimes, and a few of these have been hoaxes (attempts to pin hate crimes on others or to gain sympathetic news coverage). Even in churches, some people may set fires for insurance fraud or to cover embezzlement.

Know the Cause, Find the Cure

One goal of medical research has been to know the cause and find the cure for diseases. A similar approach may be applied to church fire safety: Know the cause of fires so we can prevent them. The Sheepdog Church Security Training Course "Arson Prevention and Fire Drills for Churches" includes ways to find and neutralize fire hazards in your church.

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/the-spark/>



DEFENDING THE FLOCK

CAUTION CAUTION

A SECURITY GUIDE FOR CHURCH SAFETY DIRECTORS

Kris Moloney

"A must have book for your church safety ministry."

GET IT ON AMAZON

Block It: Preventing a Conflagration

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Magalia, California, November 9, 2018 - While most church buildings in and around Paradise, California, were destroyed in the massive 2018 Camp Fire, the Magalia Pines Baptist Church survived, sheltering 30 people from the raging firestorm. Sure, it was a miracle. Their evacuation route had been cut off and fire exploded around them, so they took refuge in the church, not knowing if it would hold out. [2]Part of the miracle happened years before, when the congregation made construction choices. Without knowing it would protect the building from a wildfire, the church was built with a metal roof and non-combustible siding, all vents were screened, and the only trees on the property were



deciduous and at a distance from the building. God apparently guided their choices, knowing that they would save lives someday.

Manhattan, New York City, New York, April 19, 2019 - Vigilance prevents arson. A man entered St. Patrick's Cathedral with gasoline, lighter fluid, and long-nosed fireplace lighters. He was stopped by the security staff, questioned, and arrested by police who had been called. [3]

Stop It Before It Starts

Fire protection begins with fire prevention. This also means putting up roadblocks for fires that do start. This is just as important in churches and other places of worship as it is in homes, businesses, schools, and public buildings. The whole package for fire prevention and fire blocking can be called "fireproofing." The best fire is the one that

*For lack of wood
the fire goes out*

PROVERBS 26:20

*(They) quenched
the power of fire*

HEBREWS 11:34

*Can a man carry
fire next to his
chest and his
clothes not be
burned?*

PROVERBS 6:27



BLOCK IT CONTINUED...

does not start. Second best is the one which does not spread.

Built-in Fireproofing

Fireproofing is easier when planning construction of the church building. Use non-combustible materials wherever and whenever practical and affordable. Magalia Pines Baptist Church probably chose the metal roof and non-combustible exterior wall covering because they cost less than more fashionable materials, such as cedar shakes, asphalt tile, and wood or vinyl siding. Keeping trees away from the building made it easier for attendees to park closer, as well as making it easier to keep the property clean. Fireproofing may or may not have been the deciding factor, but these measures helped the church to survive a firestorm years later.

Other fireproofing of a church building which can be intentionally built in are:

- Adequate wiring with a capacity well above the expected level of use,
- Sprinkler systems,
- Kitchen fire suppression system,
- Fire alarm system, in-house and to local fire department,
- Quick-escape doors.
- Safety lighting,
- Corridors and room entrances designed to facilitate evacuation,
- Firestops where utilities pass through walls, ceilings, and floors,
- Fire doors and fire-resistant walls,
- Planned locations of fire extinguishers,
- Safe disposal location for burning materials,
- Up-to-date and fire-safe heating and cooling system,
- Fire-containment storage for flammable materials,
- Secure out-buildings for combustion-powered grounds maintenance equipment, set a safe distance from the main building(s),
- Lightning arrester with high-capacity grounding.

Retro-Fitted Fireproofing

An existing church building can be fireproofed. However, depending on the way it is built, and the cost of retro-fitting, what you can do may be limited. Fires in older-style church buildings are extremely difficult to fight, such as the Notre Dame fire in Paris and the fire in a Pittsburgh church on September 9. On the good side, as historic Roman Catholic cathedrals in the United States are being renovated, they are also being equipped to suppress fires in their most vulnerable area, the lofty roofs and ceilings. The most obvious means of fireproofing an existing church building are (1) install a sprinkler system, (2) install a fire detection system with an automatic and manual (3) install or upgrade fire extinguishers, and (4) upgrade exit signs/lights and emergency lights.

Other fireproofing measures could be (depending on the building):

- Bring the building into compliance with the local fire prevention code.
- Upgrade the heating/cooling system.
- Upgrade the electrical wiring (this includes replacing fuses with breakers or upgrading the breakers.
- Install fire-resistant walls, ceiling, and door in the furnace room.
- Inspect all chimneys and repair them if needed.-Install or upgrade lightning rod(s).
- Remove highly-flammable shrubbery and trees (such as cedar, spruce, and pine) from close to the

BLOCK IT CONTINUED...

building.

-Harden auxiliary buildings, such as grounds maintenance, garage, and outside storage. Place the one with flammable liquids (such as lighter fluid, motor oil, and fuel) furthest from the main church building, make its door more secure and install an entry alarm.

-Upgrade emergency exit routes and doors

- exit corridors should be no less than 6 feet wide,

- outside doors which remain locked should have emergency panic bars for opening from the inside.

-Place outside trash receptacles (dumpster or cans) in a cinder block enclosure with a locked gate.

-Put safe cigarette disposals outside where smokers might light up.

Fireproofing Maintenance

Proper and timely maintenance is one of the keys to preventing fires in the church. Here are a few maintenance tasks to improve fire safety:

-Perform annual maintenance on the heating and cooling systems

-If any rooms have fireplaces

- have the chimneys inspected and cleaned,

- be sure the damper works properly,

- if it is a gas fireplace

 - have the gas nozzles cleaned,

 - check the gas connections,

- if it burns wood

 - check the grate, ash box, and ash bucket,

 - have a designated safe place for ash disposal.

- Fix any electric outlets and switches in need of repair or replacement.

- Check electric cords, replace if defective.

- Inspect Kitchen appliances regularly. Have serviced if necessary.

- Inspect/test all fire suppression systems annually.

- Inspect/test fire alarms annually.

Fire Prevention Practices

There are ways we can do things around the church to prevent fires, to keep those that do start from spreading, and to facilitate evacuation and firefighting. This is not just for the Safety Team, but for everyone who participates in church programs, whether staff or volunteers. Some these are:

-Use candles with care

- Don't let children use candles without adult supervision,

- keep the flame away from burnable materials, such as paper, clothing, and curtains,

- do not leave burning candles unattended,

- completely extinguish candles (wait for 30 minutes to be sure they do not reignite) and place them in fireproof containers - a tight lid to cut off oxygen is a good idea

- Be alert for fire hazards wherever you are in the building or on the grounds.

- Do not overload electric circuits and outlets.

- Do not run electric cords under rugs or floor mats.

- Do not let children put objects other than power plugs in electric outlets.

BLOCK IT CONTINUED...

- Keep trash and debris cleaned up outside to discourage arson.
- Keep matches and lighters in secure locations.
- Keep evacuation routes clear of hazards and obstacles.
- Allow only authorized and trained persons to fuel vehicles, yard care equipment, lamps, etc. Have it done in specified areas, well-ventilated, away from open flame or other ignition sources.
- Keep ignitable objects away from sources of ignition.

Fire Prevention Help

Besides the Sheepdog Church Security training course, there is additional advice on preventing church fires from Church Tax & Law [4] and insurance companies, such as Church Mutual [5], Brotherhood Mutual [6], and AIG [7].

Only You ...

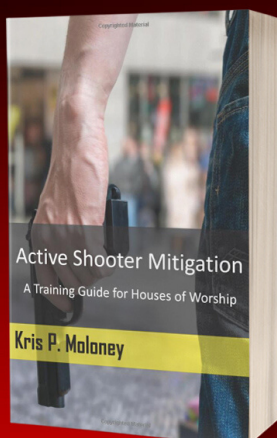
Remember the Smokey Bear posters that say, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires"? How about a Church Safety poster: "Only YOU can prevent church fires." You, individually, cannot do everything, but do what you can.

There Is More

Other articles in this series for Fire Safety Month are "Spark" (How Do Fires Start?), "Quench It" (Fire Suppression), and "Out from Danger" (Evacuations and Fire Drills).

See link for references:

<https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/block-it/>



**SAFEGUARD YOUR CHURCH
FROM VIOLENCE**

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

Quench It: Fire Suppression

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Paris, Tennessee August 15, 2019 - A fire started while roofers were working on the roof of a church. Firefighters put the fire out quickly.[2]

Eureka, California, September 6, 2019 - An arsonist started a fire in the outside entryway of a church. Passersby saw the fire and put it out with a water hose they found by the side of the church.[3] The suspect arrested in the case had been arrested four years earlier for trespass.[4]

Layton, Utah, August 12, 2019 - Two men who went into a church to use the restrooms smelled smoke and checked it out. They found curtains on the platform of the gymnasium aflame and put the fire out with a fire extinguisher. The fire was evidently arson, and an automobile was seen



speeding away.[5]

Revisiting Fire Prevention

Another article in this series, "Block It," covering fire prevention, mentioned lightning rods as a means of fire prevention. In case your church is planning new construction, renovations, or upgrading, there are resources for designing and installing effective lightning protection. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued NFPA 780 - "Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems" - setting the standard for lightning arresting systems (commonly called "lightning rods").[6] A more understandable guide to designing and installing a lightning protection system is "Lightning Protection Overview" by The Lightning Protection Institute, complete with diagrams.[7]

*... they
are extinguished,
quenched like a
wick*

ISAIAH 43:17

*(The faithful)
quenched the
power of fire*

HEBREWS 11:34

*(The faithful)
quenched the
power of fire*

HEBREWS 11:34

*For lack of wood
the fire goes out*

PROVERBS 26:20

*(In all
circumstances
take up the shield
of faith, with
which you
can extinguish all
the flaming darts
of the evil one*

EPHESIANS 6:16



QUENCH IT CONTINUED...

Suppressing Fire

We can be diligently working to prevent fires in the church, but what if one starts anyway? A fire can begin for any number of reasons. A few are accidental through carelessness, mechanical breakdowns (even after equipment has been inspected), a lightning strike too strong for the lightning rod cable, and arson. In the news stories above, one fire apparently was the result of roofers' equipment, and the other two were arson. In case there is a fire, we want to (1) contain it so it won't spread, and (2) put it out. How a fire may be suppressed depends on how the building is equipped and what firefighting tools are available. In the three news stories, one fire was put out by the fire department, one with a water hose, and the third with a fire extinguisher. Not only can fires be extinguished by people, they can also be put out by installed fire suppression systems.

How Can I Put out a Fire?

Going back to the Fire Triangle, a fire is put out by taking away one of the three elements: Fuel, Oxygen, or Heat. Most of our firefighting efforts are attempts to smother the fire, cut off its oxygen. However, before trying to put out the fire, call 9-1-1.

Fire Extinguishers

The best way to put out a fire is with a fire extinguisher.

Types

Fire extinguishers are divided into classes by the kinds of fires they are made to put out:

Class A: fires occurring in ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, paper, and plastic.

Class B: fires occurring in flammable and combustible liquids and flammable gasses.

Class C: fires occurring in energized electrical equipment, such as panel boxes, motors, and fans.

Class D: fires involving combustible metals, such as potassium and magnesium.

Class K: fires involving cooking greases and fats.[8]

According to the South Brazos County Fire Department, numbers may be added to the Class for an extinguisher, identifying the capacity of the extinguisher. For instance, Class 1-A will hold 1.25 gallons of water or enough dry material to have the same effect, and Class 1-A will hold twice as much (2.5 gallons). Class C is an added qualifier meaning that the ingredients will not conduct electricity. For instance Class BC is for flammable liquids of gas and is not electrically conductive, so it can be used on an oil fire where electricity runs through (this could be a transformer fire).[9]

Placement

The placement of fire extinguishers is also important. The Great American Insurance Group[8] recommends the placement of fire extinguishers relative to the fire hazards (where certain fires are more likely to occur). Class A extinguishers (which should be everywhere) should be within 75 feet walking distance from a fire (which means no more than 150 feet apart). Class B extinguishers should be no more than 50 feet from the hazard for flammable liquids or gasses (such as where the lawn mowers and their fuel are stored or a garage for church vehicles). Class D extinguishers are rarely needed in churches, unless someone is performing metal work. A Class K extinguisher should be within 30 feet of ranges, ovens, and fryers.

Use

When using a fire extinguisher, first pull out the safety pin. Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire and pull the trigger/lever. Sweep from side-to-side.

QUENCH IT CONTINUED...

Other Means

The action of these extinguishers is to either cool down the fire or to smother it. But removing fuel is another way to control a fire. For instance, move combustibles away from the fire if you can safely do it. Turn off the gas line (your church should have an emergency turn-off with a key). While you're at it, if the fire is in any electrical equipment, turn off the power supply. If there is a Class A fire outside, it's OK to grab a water hose (if it is there and attached) and turn it on. If no one is in the room and the fire cannot be put out, close the door to contain it. This will give others time to evacuate.

Fire Suppression Systems

There are several kinds of fire suppression systems, depending on the locations and kinds of fires they are intended to counter. An advantage of this kind of system is that, if working properly, it will be triggered by fire in the target area, even when no one is there. Another advantage is that (usually) a fire suppression system triggers an alarm when it is activated - when you find out a fire has started, the fire department is already on its way.

Sprinkler System

This is most common and best-known means of fire suppression. It is a series of pipes connected to a water supply. Along the pipes are sprinkler heads. When a sprinkler head is triggered, usually by excess heat or a rapid rise in temperature, it sprays water over its area. If the fire spreads, more sprinklers come on. Now common in all kinds of buildings, sprinklers have proved their worth. The system in the attic of St. John's Cathedral in New York City releases a mist.

Range Fire Suppression

The next most common fire suppression system is designed for kitchens. This is used in most restaurants and institutional kitchens and is installed above ranges and fryers. It is recommended for church kitchens. With volunteer help who are often called away or otherwise distracted, the hazard of unattended ranges, ovens, and fryers left on is increased.

Other Fire Suppression Systems

There are fire suppression systems designed for specific environments, such as furnace rooms, vehicle repair areas, and paint rooms. Unless your church has a vehicle maintenance shop, the furnace room will be the only one besides the kitchen with a special fire suppression system, especially if it uses oil heat. If it is electric heat, the system must be charged with a Class C suppressant. Even with oil heat, the blower fan means that you need a Class C suppressant.

Check and Test

Fire extinguishers and automatic fire suppression systems need to be periodically inspected and tested. This is especially true for fire extinguishers. They are out in the open where anyone can use them if needed. However, this means that they are also available for misuse and tampering. Also, the charge in an extinguisher is not forever. They should be recharged sometime. Use half of them for fire extinguisher training, then have them recharged. Use the others in the next training/practice session. There, you have them all recharged.

Fire Blocks

The church should have fire barriers, such as long-time burn-through walls, fire doors, and firestops where utilities pass through walls, ceilings, and floors. The intent is to stop or slow down the spread of fire. Most building codes require fireproof doors and fire-resistant walls in furnace rooms and kitchens. Train the Safety Team, staff, teachers, and other volunteers to close doors when evacuees

QUENCH IT CONTINUED...

have passed through. Even an ordinary door can slow the spread of a fire. Train them to keep the furnace room door closed at all times.

There Is More

This series on Fire Safety has other articles: "Spark" (How Do Fires Start?), "Block It" (Preventing a Conflagration), and "Out from Danger" (Evacuations and Fire Drills).

See link for references:<https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/quench-it/>



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Out from Danger: Evacuations and Fire Drills

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Southport, North Carolina, September 22, 2019 - A fire broke out in a church on a Sunday morning. All members present were safely evacuated.

Cedar City, Utah, February 7, 2019 - An electrical fire prompted evacuation of the daycare center in a church. Work was being done at the time on underground utilities.

San Francisco, California, August 29, 2019 - After construction workers struck a gas line, a church and its school were evacuated.

Seattle, Washington, March 18, 2016 - An unpleasant odor resulted in the



evacuation of a church and its daycare center. The cause of the odor turned out to be a leaking can of Axe Body Spray. Although the cause turned out to be benign, precautions were taken to protect the occupants until the source was identified.

Get Them Out

Suppose a fire starts in a waste can and is put out immediately, then the can is taken outside to a safe area just in case of re-ignition. There's no need to get everyone out. But if the fire can't be put out right away, and the burning object cannot be removed from the building, people have to be evacuated to a safe area. Getting people out of a building in an emergency may be easy with a few persons who've always come, a simple layout, and everyone close to the doors. But when you have a hallway with rooms, classes and/or meetings in

And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life" ... "Escape there quickly ..."

GENESIS 19:17, 22

Though they escape from the fire ...

EZEKIEL 15:7

Save others by snatching them out of the fire

JUDE 1:23

If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire

1 CORINTHIANS 3:15



OUT FROM DANGER CONTINUED...

session, and some people here who are not familiar with the place, evacuation can become chaos with the potential of tragic results. Orderly and safe evacuations do not just happen. They are planned. That is the lesson of the 1958 Our Lady of the Angels School fire.[6] More than 90 persons perished because they did not know what to do in case of fire. Evacuations need to be planned. The routes should be kept ready at all times. Everyone needs to know what to do and practice it.

Purposeful Evacuations

There is more than one purpose for an evacuation. The Sheepdog Church Security training course "Arson Prevention and Fire Drills for Churches"[1] lists four types of evacuations, named for their purposes: Protective, Preventative, Rescue, and Reconstructive.

- Protective - Get people out of the way before an event, such as a hurricane or rising flood waters.
- Preventative - Quickly re-locate people from an immediate threat, such as a gas leak, a bomb threat, or an approaching attacker.
- Rescue - Getting people out during or following a dangerous event, such as a fire, an attack, an explosion, a hazmat accident, etc.
- Reconstructive - Moving people to where they can be taken care of (commonly known as sheltering).

[7]

Evacuation Procedures

Evacuations are safer and more effective if done in an orderly manner. Many fires in occupied buildings have turned tragic when persons present panicked and rushed the doors, resulting in bodies piled at exits. If the church needs to be evacuated during a service or classes, pre-planned actions prevent chaos:

- Ushers guide people from sections of the sanctuary to their designated exits (the sanctuary should have multiple exits).
- Teachers lead their classes out of the classrooms to their designated exits.
- Infants are carried or wheeled out of the nursery to the exit, while toddlers are led in a line from the childcare area.
- Ushers, Safety Team members, and/or persons designated as aides assist mobility-impaired persons.
- Parents do not try to go to their children's classrooms, but plan on meeting them in the assembly area.
- Once outside the building, everyone meets at the assembly area. Teachers bring their rosters and account for their students.
- Someone from the Safety Team checks the sanctuary, classrooms, restrooms, and other areas for people left behind.

Planning Fire Evacuations

The bigger your church building and the more people that are in the church, the more detailed evacuation planning should be. If the church is spread out, plan for that. If there is more than one level, plan for that. If you have more than one building on your campus, plan for that. How will people be notified that there is a fire and they need to evacuate?

- Does the Safety Team member in the sanctuary go to the platform and tell the person leading the service?
- Who makes the announcement?
- How are classes notified?

OUT FROM DANGER CONTINUED...

-Is an audible alarm sounded?

-Is it broadcast on the public address system?

In the sanctuary, instruct the crowd to follow the ushers for their section of the auditorium. Teachers, activity leaders, and study group leaders will guide their classes and groups.

Plot It

Use a floor plan of your church building. Mark each outside door. Mark each exit from the sanctuary and from the fellowship hall. Mark each classroom, office, meeting room, and restroom door. This is your evacuation map. There should be outside doors around the church which are easily accessible. The more people who will be inside, the more doors you need. This includes one for each side of the sanctuary/worship center. Each hallway should lead to an outside door. A second floor should have stairways leading to outside doors, including one which is not in the lobby/foyer. If these standards are not met, plan on correcting the situation. Plan the route to an exit for each classroom and meeting area. Two aims of this are (1) have short enough routes, and (2) avoid bottlenecks. A general rule is half the classes on a hall exit at one end, half at the other. Have those in the sanctuary exit through different doors from those the classrooms use. Designate an assembly area. It has to be a safe distance from the building and not in the path of incoming emergency vehicles. It should be able to hold everyone from a full church.

Post It

Print the evacuation map and post copies in different areas of the church. The general rule is one in each hallway, in each classroom, and in the office. Each copy has its location marked on the map and the evacuation route highlighted.

Test It

We all know that this preparation will lead to fire drills, but not yet. First, we have to test the evacuation plans with a dry run, a mock fire drill. Bring together all Safety Ministry personnel. Also bring in the pastoral team, the church staff, leadership, and several volunteers, especially teachers. Go over the evacuation routes. Consider the different groups and locations in the church, such as nursery & childcare, the elderly and disabled, and how to empty a full sanctuary. Also plan what to do when someone is injured or ill. This is not only a test run, but training for those leading in an evacuation, a leaders' drill. Do the dry run with participants in every location in the church. Time the exit route from each room. Have some participants practice moving mobility-impaired persons. After the dry run, evaluate the results. What is the potential for traffic jams in the corridors? Are the halls and doors wide enough for two lines at the same time coming from classrooms? Is there any way the plan can be improved, such as re-routing one class? Following the test evacuation, revise the plan if needed. This can be done right away for some suggestions, such as, "Let's see how it goes if we do this instead ..."
Re-do the dry run with the change(s).

Fire Drills

If this the first fire drill your church has done - or if it has been many years since the last one - this will be a new experience for some. Most of the school-age children will do well, since they have fire drills at school. Not all adults will be equally cooperative. Some will feel that they already know their way out. This is why you are having a drill. Which route you take depends on where you are when evacuation is called for. After all, it's not good to have people going against the flow unless there is a definitely good reason, such as a Safety Team member going in to check on someone or to help a

OUT FROM DANGER CONTINUED...

mobility-impaired person.

Set a Time

Set the date for a fire drill. This can be at the end of a service. Plan an afternoon dinner so they have a reason to stay instead of everyone running to their cars. If your church has a daycare center, a pre-school, or an elementary and/or secondary school, also have a fire drill during the week. Ask the fire department to have someone there. They can observe and help in the post-drill evaluation. It also provides an air of seriousness with a fire truck sitting in front of the church.

Let Them Know

Let the congregation know that there will be a fire drill at a certain time on a certain date. Educate them on what to do and where to go, such as, "Those in front of this window go down the side aisle and out the door there. Those by and behind the window go up the side aisle and out the side door." Tell them that the teachers will take their children to the assembly area and take the roll there.

Perform the Drill

Now is the day and the time. For example, as the worship team begins the closing song, the chairperson interrupts and says, "This is a fire drill [the congregation had been told at the beginning of the service that there would be a fire drill]. We will evacuate the building. Follow the ushers for your part of the auditorium [pointing to the waiting ushers]. Parents, your children will be in the assembly area." The usher at the end of the front row motions the people out, as does the one by the back row. They continue row-by-row until they meet. Each follows his or her section out, closing the door behind them [this is a fire-control measure]. As the congregation gathers in the assembly area, teachers account for their pupils. The Safety Team members who have checked for stragglers come out. After the all-clear, the congregation and guests are invited to the fellowship hall for the church dinner.

Follow-up

Later that day, the Church Safety Committee, other church leaders, and the visiting firefighters meet to share their observations and evaluate the fire drill. How well would this work in case of a real fire? Were there any problems, such as with the nursery or the mobility-impaired? Can we improve the procedure? If so, how?

Conclusion

When it is time to get out, and do it now, it is too late to plan and drill. When many people are in the church building, we need to already know what to do and where to go.

There Is More

Other articles in this series for Fire Safety Month are "Spark" (How Do Fires Start?), "Quench It" (Fire Suppression), and "Block It" (Preventing a Conflagration).

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/quench-it/>



		RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY MINISTRIES
VISIT THE SDCS ONLINE STORE		

CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS BASED ON THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE OF KRIS MOLONEY AND THE SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY TEAM. HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY.



CSRC175: THE SPARK

Every fire is either controlled or uncontrolled. Uncontrolled fire is destructive, even fearsome. Understanding what fire is, how it starts, and how it can be quenched is the key to knowing how to control it.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC176: BLOCK IT

Fire protection begins with fire prevention. This also means putting up roadblocks for fires that do start. This is just as important in churches and other places of worship as it is in homes, businesses, schools, and public buildings.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC177: QUENCH IT

We can be diligently working to prevent fires in the church, but what if one starts anyway? How a fire may be suppressed depends on how the building is equipped and what firefighting tools are available. Not only can fires be extinguished by people, they can also be put out by installed fire suppression systems. [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC178: OUT FROM DANGER

Getting people out of a building in an emergency may be easy for small churches, but more difficult for larger ones. Evacuation can become chaos with the potential of tragic results. Orderly and safe evacuations do not just happen. They are planned. The routes should be kept ready at all times. Everyone needs to know what to do and practice it. [CLICK TO LISTEN](#)



FREE MONTHLY DOWNLOAD

How to Plan & Carry Out a Church Fire Drill

Fires are always a major concern, no matter the circumstance. An accidental fire at your house of worship can be terrifying enough, but in the increasingly violent times we live in, imagine if it's deliberately set. No matter how or why a fire starts, as part of your church safety & security ministry, what do you do? What's your responsibility? What's your team's responsibility?

Protect God's People with Our Church Safety Resource [Free Download] To Get this Resource, Click the Picture (Link) and enter your Email Address. You will receive an email with a Download Button. Click the Button in the Email to Download the Safety Ministry Resource. (The Download is in PDF format.)

Kris

MAIL CALL

Messages from Sheepdogs across the country

BOBBI B.

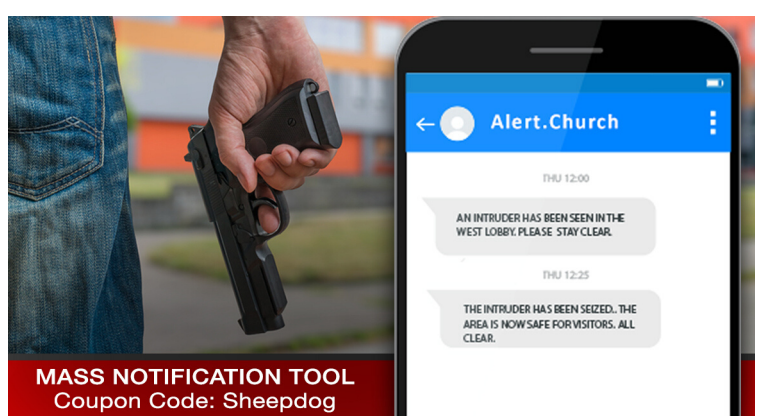
Found very helpful in a place to Start. When beginning this ministry you want to get it right the first time. This material gives consistant on point direction to train with, Bless you for what you do and THANK YOU!

KELLEY M.

It gives info about the activities in churches and on church property nationwide. This allows security teams to adjust security protocols and assignments to be better prepared to ensure our churches are safe.

JERRY T.

Wilfully pitting my life between the congregation and evil. Training, situational awareness and self control is of utmost importance. Praying for wisdom and discernment.





SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

COMMUNICATION; ORIENTATION AND RADIO PROCEDURE FOR MEDICAL TEAMS

BY TERRY BERRINGER, CRRN

Communication.

Communication is vital in the church safety teams. The need for thorough communications can even mean life or death. The need for consistent radio communication is important. Often Security personnel are quite comfortable with talking on radios. But when it comes to the medical responders, there is often a bit of a hesitancy to talking on the radio. When someone is in the process of joining your team and it is conveyed that talking on the radio may be an issue, address it early. This way something can be incorporated into the orientation for the new medical team member. Encourage them to come in early for the opportunity to work with the radios in order to become more familiar with them.

When preparing to serve on the safety ministry it is important to confirm that your radio is working. This means more than just blowing into the mike and asking someone standing nearby "is it on?", or "did you hear that?"

When signing in on a radio it is imperative that you confirm both transmission as well as reception of the radio. It is important that you get a response to your signing in on the radio to confirm that your radio and head set are working in both directions. An example would be "Good morning, this is Terry on channel one

"The need for thorough communications can even mean life or death.."

signing in for medical response team, can I have a radio check?" With a simple response of "Good morning Terry, we copy you loud and clear" this confirms that the radio and headset are working properly. This also lets everyone on radio know who is on duty and who to look for when the call comes in.

ECC.

There is a process to good radio communication that involves ECC. ECC is an acronym that allows radio communication to be complete. The E stands for ESTABLISHING the communication. Simply yelling someone's name on the radio is not good communication. Also keep in mind that with radios, the first ½ second is not transmitted. This is called clip and it can negate an important communication due to not hearing the first few words. When transmitting, key the mic, then pause for a half second, then speak. You will want to ESTABLISH who you are, where you are calling from, and to whom you wish to speak to.

A good example would be: "Good morning, this is Terry on channel one for Kris. Kris do you copy?" After Kris responds with a "This is Kris. Go ahead" or just a simple "Go for Kris", the conversation has been established.



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The advertisement features a blue background on the left with white text. In the center, there is a shield logo with a scale of justice and the text "U.S. LawShield". To the right of the logo is a photograph of a police officer in a blue uniform shirt and grey pants, holding a handgun. The background of the photo is a red and white American flag. To the right of the photo is a solid yellow rectangle.

The first C in ECC is for COMMUNICATING the message. An example of Terry's message could be "Kris, can you meet me in Room 123?" This should be a simple and direct radio communication.

The second C in ECC is for CONFIRM. This can be done by either party. Kris could respond by stating "Affirmative, see you in room 123." If Kris does not respond by repeating the message, Terry could restate, "Kris, did you copy? Meet me in room 123." Kris could then simply use the radio vernacular 10-4 or affirmative. This confirms that each party understands the desired radio communication and are both on their way to room 123.

Now we mentioned the idea of saying 10-4 which is the radio equivalent to OK. But stay away from other 10 codes and or any codes at all. There are no standardized codes that are worth the time to try to explain to anyone what is needed. Just clearly communicate what is needed. A 10-XX in one area could mean something totally different in another area. So I repeat, stay away from ten codes.

Orientation.

Orientation to the medical response person in the safety team should take place with a senior member of the team acting in the role of a field training officer. The orientee should be shown where equipment is kept and made familiar with what is kept where. This is another instance where it is important to have the person come in and familiarize themselves with what is in the medical bag and any other equipment. The other major aspect of orientation should be to have the new person gain a layout of the property. Even smaller churches have back halls and additions onto additions that are not always just a simple direct hallway or a quick left or right turn. In a time of emergency, you don't want anyone with the lifesaving equipment going the wrong way. A simple way to help this issue is to develop a scavenger hunt for those starting the ministry. You can have some current members make up the scavenger hunt in order to have them refresh their knowledge of the building. Make it fun and keep it simple.

There are radio procedures for everything from a lost child to a fire alarm activation but we can get into another time. The important thing to remember is to keep it simple. Communication is the simplest thing and often the biggest problem.

More next Time folks. Enjoy serving in your church and encourage others to do the same.



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CERTIFIED ONSITE INSTRUCTORS

We are excited to announce that we have launched our Certified Sheepdog Instructor program! I can't tell you how many times, I have been asked about onsite instructors from both churches looking for training and from instructors wanting to use our materials. Right now, we have two fully qualified instructors that can train your volunteers to serve on a Safety Team. AND, get them to the point of certification.



MAINE

MICHAEL MERCER

Michael Mercer is a retired police officer with over thirty years of crime-prevention experience. He is a nationally certified chemical agent specialist, an expert witness, and a national practitioner in crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED.) He is also a US Navy Veteran and the Past President of the Maine Association of Police, Retired. He is the Founder of Michael Mercer Consulting L.L.C. and specializes in House of Worship safety, security, and emergency operations.

Website: <https://michaelmercerconsulting.com>



MINNESOTA

BRIAN STOLT

My name is Brian Stolt. I am a certified NRA Basic Pistol Instructor, NRA Range Safety Officer and a MN DNR Hunter Safety Instructor. Prior to being a Firearms Instructor, I was a Police Officer for 18 years, with 14 of those years as a K-9 Officer. After I retired from policing, I began work as a firearms instructor where my experience and skills are used to help train others in the real world use of firearms and personal defense. I am currently working as an Account Manager for a private security company.

Website: <https://stolttacticaldefense.com/>



NEW JERSEY

MICHAEL & DESERÉE KENNEY

My name is Michael A. Kenney, the founder of The Kenney Protective Agency LLC, providing private security services in NJ. I have over 35 years experience in professional law enforcement and private security management. My wife Deserée is our Security Manager and Training Coordinator who has over 10 years experience supervising adult offenders and parolees in a community corrections setting. I am a NJ State Police Certified Security Officer Instructor, and we are both Certified Instructors for the SABRE Civilian Safety Awareness & College Safety Training Programs. We also specialize in Private Security and Safety Team Training for Houses of Worship.

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Sheepdog Seminars

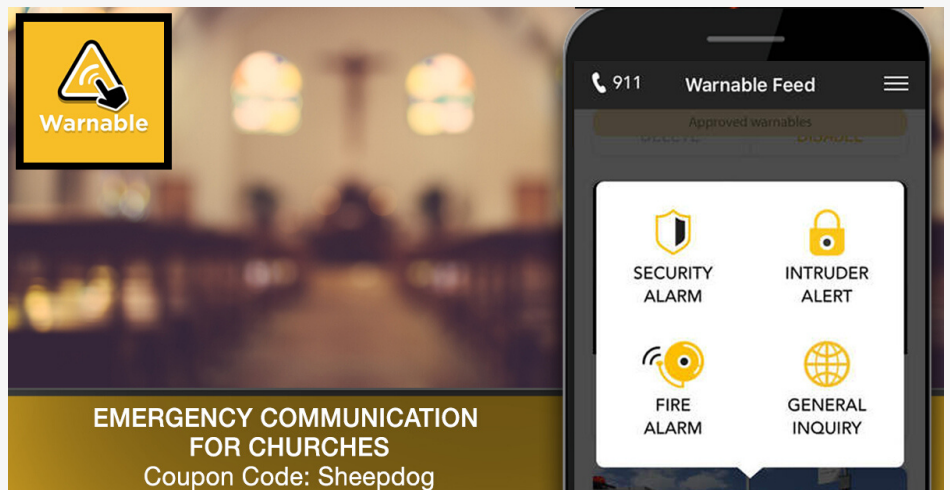
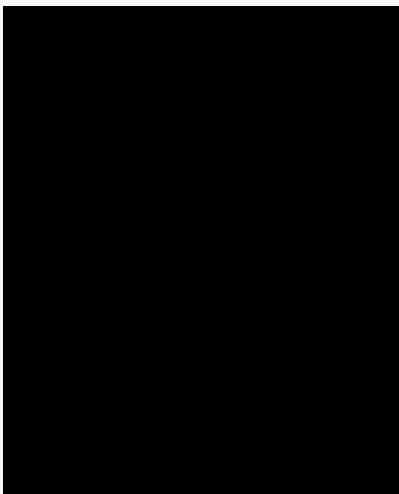
The Sheepdog Seminar is a response to the violence that reeks havoc in our world. It calls upon the defenders to take their stand. In a one day seminar it is impossible to impart all of the information that churches - and society as a whole - need in order to create a safe atmosphere for their communities. However, when you leave the Sheepdog Seminar, you will know exactly what you need to start doing.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Church Safety and Security Events

- **OKLAHOMA CHURCH SAFETY TOUR - NOVEMBER 18-22**
- **LEXINGTON, SC - MARCH 13-14**
- **SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TX - APRIL 20-21**

We are building a community of leaders who are called to protect the flock.



SHEEPDOG CORNER

Hi Sheepdog,

About three Sundays ago, I was really challenged by the sermon. The pastor was talking about giving God our best. I will not attempt to repeat his sermon here, but I would like to ask you this question. Are you giving your Safety Team and your church your very best?

The responsibility we have to our congregations is enormous. If they know it or not, they rely on us for their very lives. We are the people who will place ourselves between their loved ones and a killer. Even if we wanted to tone down the rhetoric, we still place ourselves in a position to ensure their safety.

We must take our responsibilities seriously and prepare for them.

So, my challenge to you is the same one I have for myself. Train like an active killer is coming to your church next weekend. Or at least train like next week a tornado will strike or a fire will break out or a person will have a heart attack or a child will go missing or or or...

God has empowered and called you to serve, now step up and train like never before.

*Your Loyal Companion in Christ,
Kris*



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A Police Officer with over 15 years of experience and a retired Army Captain and Company Commander. He has certifications in Crime Prevention, Security Assessments, and the Crime Free Program. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Ministry and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.
Kris P. Moloney