

# Starting a Safety and Security Team

Shared Values // Eric Spacek, JD, ARM on Thursday November 5, 2015

Whether you're a church that's long established, or a new church gathering members and finding a place to worship, having a Risk Management Team oversee the safety and security of your church is important.

Instead of various groups spending time dealing with each of the key risk management issues that a church faces, a Risk Management Team can look at risk comprehensively and formulate a plan that best fits your ministry and membership. By forming a quality safety and security team, the chances of maintaining a safe and secure environment increase dramatically. Read on to learn how to structure and organize your risk management team.

## Team Structure

- Your team should include between three and eight members. They may include current or former law enforcement officers; current or former military personnel; those who have a background in insurance, claims or risk management; facility managers, and others who feel strongly about a proactive risk management program.
- The team should be endorsed and officially formed by action of the church's administrative body. Once established, they should meet at least on a quarterly basis.
- All ongoing activities, new ministries, special events, and building upgrades and construction should be filtered through the committee.
- Regular activity reports should be given to the church staff and administrative body.

## Team Organization

- **Educate:** The team should obtain resources and seek training to become informed on key elements and responses of church risk management. The team should then educate the church board and staff members.
- **Plan and Respond:** As a team, begin developing a security plan that includes initial congregational education, inspections, activity protocols, and policies.
- **Train and Inform Others:** Begin a congregation-wide educational program on safety, security, and risk issues. Speak to small groups, key committees, and other members to keep them informed and receive their input on key safety issues and implementation.

- **Follow Through:** Develop a strategy for slowly phasing in a risk management program, as well as the ongoing monitoring, and an educational emphasis. The goal is to integrate safety and security measures into the daily life of the congregation without compromising the church's ministry.

For more information on risk management and areas your safety team should consider, [view these additional church safety resources](#) from the GuideOne Center for Risk Management.