



# FAITH BASED COMMUNITY SECURITY RESOURCES

## BACKGROUND

Given the dynamic threat environment, and the attacks that have occurred across the country against the faith-based community in the last decade, it is more critical than ever for faith-based leaders to incorporate security protocols as part of daily operations.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) supports the faith-based community in keeping houses of worship safe and secure through a multitude of capabilities. CISA provides tailored resources and security best practices to the community that allow an open and welcoming environment for parishioners to peacefully congregate and worship.

To facilitate access to a multitude of capabilities in a user-friendly manner, CISA established a web presence specifically dedicated to supporting the faith-based community (<https://www.cisa.gov/faith-based-organizations-houses-worship>). Capabilities include security assessments, preparedness training, planning support, exercises, and other materials focused on a wide range of man-made threats (e.g., bombing, active shooter, vehicle ramming, etc.).

## CREATING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

Each house of worship must determine the level of security to incorporate for a specific facility; that determination is based on a series of criteria, including localized threats, tolerance of parishioners for security measures, funding, etc. Regardless of the comprehensiveness of the security program, basic considerations should be made in order to keep the facility and people secure. CISA capabilities focus on assisting in the identification of potential vulnerabilities and consequences, and the corresponding protective measures that may be used to mitigate their risk.

### Vulnerability Mitigation

When considering security risk, a vulnerability is a weakness which an adversary may take advantage of to inflict an attack or inhibit your operations. To assist with identifying these vulnerabilities, CISA has provided an easy to use self-assessment. CISA also makes available several resources that may inform the mitigation of identified vulnerabilities.

### Consequence Mitigation

As a factor in reducing risk, consequence mitigation can be achieved through numerous processes. Two of the easiest ways to minimize the potential consequences is through security and emergency planning along with focused training of both staff and congregants. Many of those focused resources are located within the site.

### Connect with a local Protective Security Advisor (PSA)

To assist you with more in-depth information on security, CISA operates the PSA Program throughout the United States. PSAs are trained critical infrastructure protection and vulnerability mitigation subject matter experts who facilitate local field activities in coordination with other Department of Homeland Security offices. Learn more at <https://www.cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors>.