

# *Safety and Security*

## **The 3 R's:**

•**Recognize:** Recognize the suspicious, and the potential for problems. (Divorces, Domestic Problems, Mentally Unstable Visitors, Medical emergencies, Isolated Church Staff, etc.) Evaluate the “norm”. What is normal dress, behavior, what are the expected actions by your staff?

•**Report:** Report it immediately to a designated member or person, very important only a few designated to receive reports, welcoming team member should implement the policy or plan already in place to reduce potential harm. Review how welcoming team communicates to one another (cell phones, walkie talkies). Who is responsible to report to 911, staff, members, pastor?

•**Respond:** Respond appropriately, appropriate responses MUST be developed and practiced BEFORE needed to be effective. Responses may include, isolating the threat, locking doors, making notifications to 911 and/or staff. The Roanoke City Police Department teaches the principles RUN, HIDE, FIGHT in case of an active shooter or threat. Run if able to safely evacuate, Hide if unsafe to run or evacuate, Fight when there are no other options.

## Security Tips

Crisis Planning: In developing the crisis plans contact your Police Dept. or schools for guidance. This is a separate plan then this security plan.

Crisis Plans direct what to do WHEN an incident occurs, Security Plans are preventative in nature and the two complement one another.

What events will be planned for?

Medical incidents, active shooter, missing child, non-violent/violent disruptor, trespassing automobile or persons, firearms on site, fire evacuation plan.

Who will be in charge?

Administration contact, key holder contact

Who will act as media contact? (Damage control in accusations etc.)

Where to evacuate, if necessary?

Each of these involve training of what to do if crisis takes place...

Plan should include:

1. Responsibilities check list– who does what
2. Inventory of keys and who has them (key holder contact information as well)
3. Blue prints of building posted in lobby (fire exits, first aid, and emergency contact info)
4. Phone List: Community emergency numbers, 911, Police and Fire contact info, local hospital contact information

5. Name tags of welcoming team, staff so members know who to report to
6. Policy and procedures on how to respond to emergency situations.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design “CPTED” Defined: The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.

CPTED:

Strategies are site specific, can be applied to new and existing projects, and takes an inter-disciplinary approach to crime prevention

Strategy: Natural Surveillance: Maximize visibility through the judicious placement of physical features, activities and people. Keep intruders under observation thereby making them less likely to commit offenses. Greater visibility makes normal / approved users feel safer.

Surveillance strategies: Raise tree canopies and trim shrubs to maintain sightlines. Illuminate building entrances, pedestrian paths and parking areas to maximize visibility. Orient building entrances toward high-traffic (pedestrian & vehicular) areas. Use ample internal and external windows to increase passive surveillance. Centrally locate amenities for maximum visibility.

Strategy: Access Control: Guide people to and from a space via the judicious placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting. This strategy aims to decrease the opportunity for criminal activity by denying access to crime targets and creating the perception of risk in offenders.

Strategy: Territoriality: The use of physical attributes that express ownership such as signage, fencing, landscaping, lighting and pavement treatments all demonstrate territoriality. This design concept aims to extend a sphere of influence over a property whereby the owners, employees, members and users will take a greater interest in the events occurring in their environment. Define property lines with fencing, plantings or elevation changes. Use signs to specify approved or prohibited behaviors. Design prominent building entrances. Create a unique environment / a ‘sense of place’ through the use of pavement treatments, artwork, lighting and architectural designs.

Strategy: Maintenance: Maintenance serves as an expression of ownership and allows spaces to be used for their intended purpose. Regular maintenance protects the public safety and welfare and guarantees the integrity of structures and environments.

To make us safer prevention experts know we must...

- Increase the risk of detection for criminal or terrorist activities.
- Increase the effort for the criminal to successfully carry out their crime.
- Reduce the reward or perceived reward.
- Remove excuses for being where they shouldn't.
- Plan and be prepared.