
[CEN Applauds DHS including Houses of Worship in Emergency Support](#)

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In the President's plan to reduce gun violence the statistics related to school risk and emergency planning mirror the same needs as those of houses of worship.

"A 2010 survey found that while 84 percent of public schools had a written response plan in the event of a shooting, only 52 percent had drilled their students on the plan in the past year. We must ensure that every school has a high-quality plan in place and that students and staff are prepared to follow it."

In May of this year [DHS](#) will work intentionally to address this sobering statistic for schools and houses of worship. The Department of Education, Justice, Health and Human Services will be releasing model, high-quality emergency management plans for schools, houses of worship, and institutions of higher education, along with best practices for developing these plans and training students and staff to follow them. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of Justice, will assist interested schools, houses of worship, and institutions of higher education in completing their own security assessments.

CEN applauds DHS for taking the step of including houses of worship into risk assessment and emergency planning support initiatives. It is estimated that less than 1% of churches have an emergency plan and have assessed their risks within the community they serve.

To assist DHS in this effort to reach every church in risk assessment and emergency planning support CEN will be hosting training in church risk assessment and ministry continuity and emergency operations planning via webinar. Contact us if your church is interested in the free webinar series.

Meanwhile, begin [ReadyChurch](#) today! Get started on this vital step for every church! [ReadyChurch](#) includes risk assessment and emergency planning within the comprehensive guidebook as well as how to network with other churches, how to prepare your church emergency team, and how to bring a biblical response to your local community.

- To [read the entire White House paper](#)
- To learn more about [how to manage an active shooter incident](#)

CEN REMINDER: If you see something that just does not appear quite right, such as a bag out of place outside a airport terminal or a person taking pictures of a commercial venue report it to your local law enforcement without hesitation. Just as one small piece of a puzzle completes a picture, so too, law enforcement need those bits of information to keep us safe!