
PROTECTING HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENT RESOURCE GUIDE



Prepared by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado

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Introduction

Although not the first, the June 2015 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, that left nine parishioners dead was another dreadful reminder of the vulnerability houses of worship face in communities across the country. That unique vulnerability – whether at a small or large venue – stems from the balance faith-based institutions must strike between being welcoming to all comers, particularly those with immediate needs, while maintaining the sanctity and security of the worship center.

Following the human devastation inflicted at Emanuel A.M.E., the United States Attorney's Office in Detroit reached out to its local faith community and sponsored a Faith-Based Security Summit for faith-based leadership.



AP Photo/Stephen B. Morton

The event – the inspiration of Barbara L. McQuade, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan – proved to be a valuable resource to the community in a number of ways. It was not only an opportune time for the law-enforcement community to stand beside the faith-based community, but it also offered some practical guidance to strengthen houses of worship against the ever-increasing threats they confront.

Recognizing the wisdom of this idea, I was quick to pirate it and sponsor a similar event in Denver a month later. That event, held at Shorter Community A.M.E. Church in Denver, was welcomed and well attended by a cross-section of the faith community as well. It too provided a time for the Denver faith community to gather, not just to share in the grief felt after Charleston, but to move forward with a renewed strength and purpose that comes from learning practical measures to potentially avert a future tragedy.

In response to the very positive response to the Denver event, our office has subsequently sponsored two other Protecting Houses of Worship events, in Boulder and Colorado Springs, partnering each time with local law-enforcement agencies. We are planning future meetings, including an all-day seminar to cover the subject in more depth. Other Districts have since held similar events.

“Places of worship often define themselves by being open and welcoming to all people, but we want to make sure that faith communities have the information they need to keep everyone who walks through their doors as safe as possible.”

– Barbara McQuade, United States Attorney, E.D. Michigan

Given the increasing level of interest in the topic, the hope is that this resource guide draws upon these experiences and aids others in offering similar meetings in more communities. I hope that you find this resource helpful toward meeting the continuing goal of building resilient communities.



John F. Walsh
United States Attorney
District of Colorado



Recent History of Violence at Houses of Worship

Despite being sanctuaries from the troubles of the world, houses of worship have also been targets as violence has spiked across the country in recent years. The killing of nine people at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina, was the largest mass shooting in a house of worship since 1991, when nine people were shot at the Wat Promkunaram Buddhist temple in Waddell, Arizona, northwest of Phoenix.

Prior to Charleston, the most recent high-profile incident of violence at a house of worship was the shooting at a Sikh temple outside Milwaukee in 2012 where a lone gunman killed six people. In 2014, a Neo-Nazi gunman killed three people at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, near Overland Park, Kansas. Also in 2014, an unknown gunman fired several shots at the Islamic Society of Coachella Valley in California, and there were at least two mosque burnings over the last two years (Joplin, Missouri, and Houston, Texas). In 2007, a lone gunman killed four people and wounded five others that involved shootings at a youth ministry training center in Arvada, Colorado, and the next day at a church north of Colorado Springs, Colorado.



A survey of violence at places of worship does not reveal a common motivation for the attacks. While some threats may garner greater attention and, thus, carry more weight in the minds of some, the fact remains that faith-based organizations face threats from many different sources. This fact must be borne in mind in developing security measures at houses of worship. A comprehensive list of gun violence at houses of worship in the United States over the past ten years is provided on page 18.

Prompted by these escalating security concerns involving violence at houses of worship across the nation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with other federal agencies, published a *Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship* in June 2013. It outlines how organizations can plan for “preventing, protecting against, mitigating the impact of, and recovering from these emergencies.” The guide provides guidance on creating an Emergency Operation Plan in conjunction with community

partners such as local law enforcement, fire officials, EMS, and emergency management officials. *See List of Resources, page 14*

Areas of Concern to the Faith-Based Community

The recent events in Charleston and elsewhere only serve to highlight the security challenge faced by faith-based institutions who must balance their mission to be open and welcoming to the communities they serve but also protective of their worshipers and ministry staff. Adopting a closed-door mentality runs counter to the spirit of serving those in need, but, on the other hand, not being vigilant of who may be coming through the door poses a risk to staff and congregants, not to mention less peace of mind and sense of safety.

While most large faith-based institutions have addressed the issue of security and have the resources to implement protective measures, smaller assemblies do not. Moreover, the staff of faith-based institutions often lack in-depth training or experience in law enforcement and the legal landscape that surrounds security issues. For these groups, providing a starting point, direction, and resources can be invaluable.



Hindu Temple, Atlanta, GA

A case in point that illustrates well the tradeoff between safety, security, and religious values of compassion and openness is the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Following the tragic 2012 shooting rampage, the temple adopted stringent security measures. The temple spent \$75,000 on security improvements, including reinforced windows, safe rooms to hide the entirety of the temple's worshippers, and 24 cameras that monitor the grounds, broadcasting footage directly to the local police department.¹ The temple's vice president responding to the difficult tradeoffs responded,

"It used to be in the Sikh religion, all doors stayed open. But what happened here, and what happened in South Carolina — these things could happen anywhere. No one is immune."

Of course, there are many other security challenges faced by faith-based institutions. It is important to remember that, just as in the broader community, security threats to faith-based groups can come from many sources, not solely from ideological extremists. The September 20, 2015, shooting of a pastor, mother, and newborn, in an East Selma, Alabama, church stemmed from an issue of domestic violence. Other groups have been targets of gang violence or the violent acts of the mentally ill or drug users. A comprehensive security plan must address all of these possibilities.

Event Objectives

The subject of security at houses of worship could easily fill a weeks-long course, if not more. Yet, even in a several-hour long event, much information can be conveyed to those ministry staff tasked with “life-safety” issues, a term that includes security. As previously mentioned, these events may be even more valuable to small institutions, which have not yet addressed the issue of security at all, or which have not revisited the issue in light of the recent upward tick of violent incidents across the nation. For larger organizations, the event’s value can come in the form of learning state-of-the art practices, new technologies, networking with local law-enforcement officials, as well as the opportunity for them to offer assistance to smaller organizations. Further, congregating an interfaith community has also provided an opportunity to share concerns among different religious institutions. Consequently, existing faith networks will be strengthened and new ones established.



Safe Sanctuary Symposium

“On October 14, 2015, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia partnered with the FBI, Homeland Security, and the Mayor’s Interfaith Council to host a Safe Sanctuary Symposium at a local synagogue. Approximately 150 clergy members attended the symposium, which covered active shooter and natural disaster training. We believe it is important that the faith-based community have critical information to keep their congregants safe. The training was part of the Department’s larger efforts to engage the faith-based community in public safety issues.”

*Channing Phillips, U.S. Attorney,
District of Columbia*

Future efforts may include information sharing about potential threats that appear on the radar screen. This is already occurring in several Colorado faith communities where notices of interest are sent out to the network to notify members of potential threats.



The key objectives of Protecting Houses of Worship events have been:

- Encouraging an initial conversation about implementing a security program
- Offering best practices for faith-based security
- Networking and community outreach
- Providing resources, including components of a sound plan and examples of plans
- Responding to community concerns

The day-long symposium being planned for 2016 in Denver will focus on providing faith-based leaders from around Colorado with information that will help them develop and implement security programs and emergency action plans, deter threats, share information, and address risks, such as an active shooter situations. Hate crime trends and prosecutions will also be discussed.

Response from the Faith Community

The District of Colorado has sponsored three events around the state – in Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs – in partnership with local law enforcement agencies in 2015. The response has been overwhelmingly positive from the faith community as well as from the law-enforcement community, which welcomed the opportunity to interact with those involved in faith-based security, an opportunity they otherwise might not have.



Sikh Temple, El Sobrante, California

Faith leaders typically have limited contact with local law-enforcement agencies, yet establishing a partnership before an emergency arises is a key component of a security plan. For many involved in security, the only understanding of law enforcement's view of citizen involvement with safety and security at faith institutions is derived secondhand or from the

media. Thus, these events have provided a valuable forum for law enforcement to convey critical information to security personnel, including how law enforcement will respond to a particular emergency, such as an active shooter. Furthermore, these events bring faith communities together who may not have met before, strengthening networks and building understanding.

Other districts have received similar feedback following their events. Requests to put on additional events have been received, and on November 24, 2015, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Georgia held an event on safety and security in houses of worship in Augusta, Georgia, at a local performing arts theater. The event was covered by the Augusta Chronicle.² The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia sponsored, in conjunction with the Mayor’s Interfaith Council, a “Safe Sanctuary Symposium” in October, 2015.

“My thanks ... for leading the recent Protecting Houses of Worship presentation ... here ... in Colorado Springs. I personally found the presentation informative but most importantly felt reassured that our law enforcement community is focused on our faith communities and felt partnership in this regard with our law enforcement community—we are blessed to be in this place. As we recover yet again from another instance of violence in the Springs, I want to thank you ... for all you do for us down the road as well as all you do for the entire State of Colorado.”

– Alison Murray, Executive Director, First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs

Event Planning

Location

In Colorado, three events were held at churches in response to specific offers to host events there. A fourth is being planned for a high school in January 2016. Other districts have held events at a nearby law school and college auditorium. While a house of worship may be a convenient venue, consideration should be given to ensuring that attendees from different faith traditions would feel comfortable attending the event.

Audience and Publicity

The events have been specifically tailored toward staff and leadership at faith-based institutions tasked with the responsibility of security, rather than worshipers in general. For this

reason, a press release was not issued about the events, but instead invitations were sent through community groups, interfaith organizations, existing church networks, law-enforcement agencies, and direct contact with faith-based groups. Other offices have issued press releases and publicized the events to the public.

Topics to cover

Listed below are the topics of most interest to the faith community based on feedback from events held thus far. In particular, given recent events, there has been keen interest in how an institution should respond to an active shooter event. The FBI or other law-enforcement agency can provide a presenter for that topic.

1. Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Presentation
 - a. Presentation can be based on the curriculum developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response (ALERRT) Center at Texas State University. (<http://alerrt.org/>) (Many in the law enforcement community use a PowerPoint developed for a civilian audience.)
 - b. Video Presentations
 - i. [Run, Hide, Fight](#) – produced by the City of Houston with a grant from the Department of Homeland Security
 - ii. [Avoid, Deny Defend](#) – produced by ALERRT at Texas State University
 - iii. [The Coming Storm](#) – produced by the FBI (and Rocket Media Group) was released on June 22, 2015 (link is to film trailer). It is a training film designed to encourage collaboration among first responders tasked with responding to a catastrophic event of violence. (This video is not intended for a general audience.)
2. The nature and type of threats posed to faith-based organizations, such as trends in hate crimes affecting particular communities.
3. Securing Houses of Worship – Developing a Response
 - a. Developing a written security plan
 - b. Include in this presentation the factors an organization must consider in deciding whether their security team will be permitted to carry weapons.

4. Hate crimes trends and prosecutions
5. Laws pertaining to firearms and their use in self-defense, specifically laws concerning the carrying of concealed weapons
6. Resources available to faith-based organizations developing a security plan. Available help from DHS and FEMA's websites (links listed under List of Resources on page 14)
7. Panel discussion based on audience questions

Speakers to Invite

- Faith-based organization security staff members
- Representative from a local church, mosques, Sikh temple, or the Anti-Defamation League, which has a comprehensive database of hate crimes and other acts of violence against faith institutions.
- Federal and state law enforcement officials
- Local district attorney
- Experts in criminal justice from local colleges or universities



Panel discussion

The panel has been made up of presenters as well as local law-enforcement officials (sheriffs, chiefs of police, district attorneys, and relevant community groups). This portion of the event has received the most positive reviews. Instead of fielding live questions from audience members, consider distributing 4 x 6-inch note cards for audience members to write out questions in advance. Collect the cards before the panel segment and review the questions for those most pertinent. This practice has worked well, allowed the panel to answer more questions, allowed audience members privacy in asking questions, and eliminated irrelevant questions. Given that all of the questions are likely to not get answered within the allotted time, let the audience members know that they may speak with one of the panel members after the event to have their particular questions answered.



Event Planning Checklist

The Month or more before the event

- Locate venue for the event preferably with a stage and audio-visual equipment.
- Coordinate date with potential speakers
- Discuss topic to be addressed by each speaker (request a PowerPoint presentation)
- Draft event agenda (request RSVPs)
- Publicize the event (consider using local interfaith networks)

Week before event

- Confirm speakers and obtain presentations / handouts
- Prepare briefing memo for U.S. Attorney or designee
- Coordinate refreshments
- Prepare sign-up sheets / obtain note cards
- Prepare a list of questions for the panel discussion (solicit from speakers) (These seed questions can be used while audience questions are gathered and reviewed.)

Day of event

- Upload PowerPoints and perform a dry-run
- Check stage set-up, podium, audio-visual equipment, lighting, sound

Post-event

- Compile email list of attendees
- Email thank you along with pdf file of materials / resources

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How were the events publicized?

A: The event flyers were distributed by co-sponsors of the event, local interfaith networks, and the law-enforcement community. Additional efforts were made to contact inter-faith groups and university religious organizations, as well as faith-based civic organizations and places of worship, including gurdwaras, temples, mosques, synagogues, and churches. A press release was not issued in Colorado given that the event was focused on a select audience of faith-based leadership involved in security rather than the public. However, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan did issue a press release publicizing its event. (See Sample Press Release below.)

Q: Was the media invited to cover the event?

A: For the events in Colorado, the news media was not invited to cover the events given that the focus has been on faith-based staff tasked with security rather than the organization’s membership. Several local news outlets in Boulder, Colorado, and Augusta, Georgia, did publicize the events.³ There are, of course, pros and cons to having media coverage. The presence of media may dampen audience members from asking security-sensitive questions pertaining to their unique circumstances as well as the presenters from providing more focused and candid advice. On the positive side, coverage of the event serves to publicize the topic and thus alert others in the faith community to the issue.

Q: What are the considerations for security at the event itself?

A: At the events, a visible security presence was provided by local law enforcement in light of the larger audience and presence of public officials in a public forum. The larger churches at which the events were held also had their own security protocols in place.

Q: What follow-up has been done after the events?

A: Resource materials have been emailed to attendees who provided an email address at the event. Attendees have also been apprised of other events.

Q: What feedback has been received from the community about these events?

A: The follow-up response has been very positive. Faith leaders expressed gratitude for the service provided to their community through the events as well as the opportunity to establish contacts with the law enforcement community.

“There was lots of great information in the slides presented that I would love to have for reference in the future.” – Denver faith community member

“After the tragedy that occurred at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, the SDGA’s Community Outreach coordinator received a number of requests for assistance from members of the District’s religious community. In response to those requests, the SDGA hosted two Protecting Houses of Worship Forums. The forums brought together congregations and over 400 pastors, ministerial staff, and congregants from several different religious denominations. We were extremely pleased by the phenomenal, overwhelmingly positive, response received from the entire faith community. We have already received several requests to coordinate forums in different communities across the District. In addition to providing information on what to do in the event of an active shooter, the SDGA remains committed to educating and preparing our religious community for any type of emergency that may affect their ability to practice their faith.” – *Edward J. Tarver, United States Attorney, Southern District of Georgia*

List of Resources

1. [FEMA Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#)
2. [Colorado Department of Homeland Security Resource Guide](#)
3. [FBI Video Resource: Run, Hide, Fight \(Surviving an Active Shooter Incident\)](#)
4. [Avoid, Deny, Defend Training: Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events](#)

District of Colorado Contacts

Mark S. Pestal, Assistant U.S. Attorney – mark.pestal@usdoj.gov (303) 454-0101

Jenny Presswalla, Director of Strategic Engagement, Colorado, Office of Community Partnerships, U.S. Department of Homeland Security–
jenny.presswalla@usdoj.gov

Jeff Dorschner, Spokesman, Public Affairs Officer – jeff.dorschner@usdoj.gov

Community outreach and Protecting Houses of Worship Email Account: USACO-Contact@usdoj.gov

United States Attorney's Office mainline: (303) 454-0100

PROTECTING HOUSES OF WORSHIP



- WHAT:** This interfaith meeting will focus on providing faith-based leaders with information about religious hate crimes, how the police and FBI conduct threat assessments, and how to fortify houses of worship from potential hates crimes and active shooter situations.
- WHO:** Faith-based leadership are urged to attend.
- WHEN:** November 12, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church
219 East Bijou Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- RSVP:** Please RSVP to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] no later than November 6, 2015.
-

Co-Sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado, Department of Justice, First Presbyterian Church, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Colorado Springs Police Department



Sample Agendas

Meeting Agenda: Protecting Houses of Worship

First Presbyterian Church, Colorado Springs

November 12, 2015 – 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 6 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. | Welcome and Invocation
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church |
| | Introduction
John F. Walsh
United States Attorney, District of Colorado |
| 6:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. | Threats to the faith-based community
Jeremy Shaver
Assistant Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League |
| 6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. | Securing Houses of Worship – Developing a response
Doug Newcomb
Faith Bible Chapel, Arvada, Colorado |
| 7:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. | Active Shooters
Larry McVay
Supervisory Special Agent
FBI, Colorado Springs |
| 7:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Protecting Places of Worship – Panel Discussion / Audience Questions

Dilpreet Jammu
Co-Chair, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
President, Colorado Sikhs

Bill Elder
Sheriff
El Paso County

Pete Carey
Chief of Police
Colorado Springs

Jeremy Shaver
Assistant Director
Anti-Defamation League

Doug Newcomb
Faith Bible Chapel |
| 8:30 p.m. | Closing Reflections |

Meeting Agenda: Protecting Houses of Worship

Rocky Mountain Christian Church
October 29, 2015 – 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- 6 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.** **Welcome and Invocation**
Shan Moyers
Senior Pastor, Rocky Mountain Christian Church
- Introduction**
John F. Walsh
United States Attorney, District of Colorado
- 6:15 – 6:45 p.m.** **Overview of Hate Crimes Prosecutions**
Stan Garnett
District Attorney
Boulder County District Attorney’s Office
- Sean Finn
Chief Trial Deputy
Boulder County District Attorney’s Office
- 6:45 – 7:15 p.m.** **Hate Crime Statistics and Symbols of Hate**
Jeremy Shaver
Assistant Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League
- 7:15 p.m. – 8 p.m.** **Active Shooters**
Todd Sanstedt
Supervisory Special Agent
FBI Denver Division
- 8 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** **Protecting Places of Worship – Panel Discussion / Audience Questions**
Dilpreet Jammu
Co-Chair, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
President, Colorado Sikhs
- Joe Pelle
Sheriff
Boulder County
- Jeremy Shaver
Assistant Director
Anti-Defamation League
- Joseph O’Keefe
Protective Service Advisor
Department of Homeland Security
- 8:30 p.m.** **Closing Reflections**

Faith-Based Security Summit
July 27, 2015
Wayne State University Law School Partrich Auditorium

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 11:15 – Noon | Registration |
| Noon – 12:15 | Welcome/Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara McQuade, USA - USAO• Paul Abbate, SAC - FBI• Ron Haddad, Chief – Dearborn Police• Todd Bettison, Commander - Detroit Police |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | Active Shooter Presentations (Confirmed FBI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christopher Tarrant, Acting SSA FBI – Active Shooter |
| 12:45 – 1:15 | Break/Light Lunch |
| 1:15 – 2:00 | DHS Security Presentation – Protective Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Al Shenouda, Protective Security Advisor - DHS |
| 2:00 – 2:10 | Break |
| 2:15 – 3:15 | Security Protocol – Houses of Worship Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gary Sikorski, Security Director - Jewish Federation• Ray Washington, Security Director - Greater Grace Temple• Kassem Allie, Executive Director - Islamic Center of America• Raman Singh, President, Interfaith Leadership Council - Gurdwara Sahib Mata Tripta |
| 3:15 – 4:00 | Hate Crime Trends and Prosecutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heidi Budaj, Regional Director – Anti-Defamation League• Mark Chutkow, Chief – Public Corruption Unit, US Attorney’s Office• David Porter, SSA FBI – Hate Crime Matters |

Moderated by:
USA Barbara McQuade

Sample Press Release

U.S. Attorneys » Eastern District of Michigan » News

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Michigan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Law Enforcement Agencies To Hold Houses of Worship Interfaith Security Summit

Following the tragic shooting at Emanuel A.M.E Church in Charleston, South Carolina, last month, the U.S. Attorney's Office is hosting a training summit to share best practices for security at houses of worship.

The summit will take place on Monday, July 27, 2015, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium at Wayne State University Law School.

"Places of worship often define themselves by being open and welcoming to all people, but we want to make sure that faith communities have the information they need to keep everyone who walks through their doors as safe as possible."

The summit will focus on providing faith-based leaders with information that will help them develop and implement security programs and emergency action plans, deter threats, share information and address risks, such as active shooter situations. Hate crime trends and prosecutions will also be discussed.

Speakers include U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade, Al Shenouda, Protective Security Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, FBI Special Agent in Charge Paul Abbate, Dearborn Police Chief Ron Haddad and Commander Todd Bettison, Detroit Police Department.

The event is being co-hosted the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service, the Detroit Police Department, the Wayne State University Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League.

Leaders from all faith-based communities are encouraged to attend. For more information and/or to reserve a seat at the summit, please contact Robert Poikey, Law Enforcement Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office at (313) 226-9120 or email at robert.poikey@usdoj.gov.

USAO - Michigan, Eastern

Updated July 16, 2015

List of Shootings at Religious Institutions, 2005 - 2015*

- September 20, 2015 — Oasis Tabernacle Church, East Selma, Alabama, 3 wounded
- June 18, 2015 — Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 9 killed
- May 25, 2015 — Knoxville, Tennessee, 1 killed, 8 wounded
- May 24, 2015 — First Church of the Nazarene, Hartford, Connecticut, 1 wounded
- December 4, 2014 — Bayshore Baptist Church, Bradenton, Florida, 3 killed, 1 wounded
- June 13, 2014 — Mother of Mercy Church, Phoenix, Arizona, 1 killed, 1 wounded
- April 13, 2014 — Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and Village Shalom, Overland Park, Kansas, 3 killed
- September 27, 2013 — Lake Charles, Louisiana, 1 killed
- September 18, 2013 — Sunday Kingdom Christian Center, South Bend, Indiana, shots fired, no injuries
- August 19, 2013 — Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois, 1 killed, 4 wounded
- July 22, 2013 — Norwood First Baptist Church, Norwood, Missouri, shots fired in church, no injuries
- March 31, 2013 — Hiawatha Church of God, Ashtabula, Ohio, 1 killed
- January 12, 2013 — Full Gospel Christian Church, Flint, Michigan, 1 killed
- December 10, 2012 — Faith Center Church, Sunrise, Florida, 1 wounded
- December 3, 2012 — First United Presbyterian Church, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, 1 killed
- November 5, 2012 — Principe de Paz church, Westlake, California, 1 killed, 2 wounded
- October 24, 2012 — World Changers Church International, Atlanta, Georgia, 1 killed
- October 30, 2012 — Greater Sweethome Missionary Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, 1 killed
- September 6, 2012 — West Pensacola Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida, 1 wounded
- August 10, 2012 — Muslim Education Center Mosque, Morton Grove, Illinois, shots fired at exterior wall with 500 people inside mosque
- August 5, 2012 — Sikh Temple, Oak Creek, Wisconsin, 6 killed, 1 police officer seriously wounded
- June 7, 2012 — Victory for the World Church, Atlanta, Georgia, 2 killed, 2 wounded
- May 3, 2012 — St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, Maryland, 2 killed
- April 22, 2012 — Destiny Christian Center, Aurora, Colorado, 1 killed

September 18, 2011 — Greater Faith Christian Center Church, Lakeland, Florida, 1 killed, 1 wounded

December 24, 2010 — Mosaic Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 9 wounded

November 16, 2010 — East Oakland Church, Oakland, California, 1 killed

September 27, 2010 — St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church, 1 killed

August 30, 2010 — Church of Latter Day Saints, Fresno, California, 1 killed

January 7, 2010 — Gaines Township, Michigan, 1 wounded

February 14, 2010 — New Gethsemane Church of God, Richmond, California, 2 wounded

October 29, 2009 — Adat Yeshurun Valley Sephardic Orthodox Synagogue, North Hollywood, California, 2 wounded

April 7, 2009 - Kkottongnae Retreat Camp (Korean religious retreat, Temecula, California, 1 killed, 2 wounded

March 8, 2009 — First Baptist Church, Maryville, Illinois, 1 killed, 2 injured

July 27, 2008 — Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2 killed, 7 injured

December 9, 2007 — Colorado YWAM, Arvada, Colorado, and New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 4 killed, 5 wounded.

May 20, 2007 — Presbyterian Church, Moscow, Idaho, 3 killed (including one police officer)

August 12, 2007 — First Congregational Church, Neosho, Missouri, 3 killed, 5 wounded

October 2, 2006 — Amish School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 5 killed

May 21, 2006 — The Ministry of Jesus Christ Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 4 killed, 2 wounded

February 26, 2006 — Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, 2 killed

March 20, 2005 - Living Church of God service, Brookfield, Wisconsin, 7 killed, 4 wounded.

*This list may not be comprehensive. Information is from various internet sources.

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/06/18/how-security-transformed-a-temple-in-wisconsin-after-bloodshed/>

² <http://events.augusta.com/events/community-events-faith/houses-worship-safety-and-security-summit>

³ http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_29018515/boulder-area-law-community-feds-team-religious-groups & <http://nbc26.tv/2015/11/24/summit-held-to-address-security-in-houses-of-worship/>