

August 2021

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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TOP NEWS STORY

SOUTHWEST AUSTIN CHURCH MEMBERS HELP POLICE CATCH BURGLARY SUSPECTS TRYING TO STEAL MUSIC EQUIPMENT

“Scared and frustrated — that’s how church members at Misión Cristiana Internacional LIDS describe their emotions while watching a suspect take thousands of dollars worth of equipment from their sanctuary. Fortunately for members at Misión Cristiana Internacional LIDS, the two suspects linked to their burglary were caught.”

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Basic Use of Force Laws

Let's face it – sometimes, the threats you face will need to be met with more than just accurate planning or expert verbal de-escalation. While most people are, at heart, kind and good, there are predators among us who seek to prey on those they perceive as being weaker than them, or who are “easy marks”. All too often, that means the church, and the church congregation.

“This was an eye opener for me, especially for carrying a gun at church. I have learned we have a long way to go with regards to our safety procedures.” -William Siefers

This course is designed to help you understand what use of force laws are intended to allow, how they can play a role in safeguarding your flock, and their limitations. It also explains the legal responsibilities that apply to your Church Safety Team members, and explains how to limit your criminal and civil liability in situations where force is used. Click on the picture below to learn more!



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Church Security
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WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Trained and Certified in Weapons Use

Weapons Qualifications

The theme for July was weapons training, qualification, and certification. This includes all weapons, from non-lethal to lethal, which members of a Church Safety Team may use. Topics covered were kinds of weapons at all levels of lethality, federal and state weapons laws, and weapons training and practice.

Kinds of Weapons – Weapons used to be simply classed as lethal or non-lethal. That's now nuanced into levels of lethality based on how likely a weapon may cause serious injury or death. Lethal weapons are firearms and edged weapons. Less-lethal includes batons (seldom used). Less-than-lethal and non-lethal weapons are defensive sprays, electric discharge devices, and kubotans.

Weapons Laws – Few federal weapons laws apply to a Church Safety Ministry. State laws and local ordinances affect us most. They differ by state and may be changed. For example, the Texas law on firearms in churches changed in 2017, and Ohio's law on carrying weapons, including less-lethal ones, changed in 2021. Ohio's change was to clarify what constitutes a weapon, so now it's unquestionably legal to carry a pocket knife in your pocket. It is important to find out what is legal to carry in your state and how to carry it.

Weapons Training and Practice – Training is important for almost any weapon you may carry, even if it seems perfectly harmless. With firearms, we need to know how to use them safely, how to care for them, and how to shoot, including tactical shooting. Regular practice is needed to keep our skills sharp. Training is required in some states for pepper spray, tear gas (Mace), and stunning devices (stun guns and Tasers), because misuse can result in injuries, sometimes death.

Weekly Team Briefing Continued

Featured Products

The free download is the “[*Use of Force Training Record*](#).” It has lines to record training for Firearm Qualification, Tactical Shoot, Drills and Exercise, Unarmed Control, Use of Force Laws, and Verbal De-escalation.

Two featured products are [*Reflex Protect*](#) and Sheepdog Church Security's [*Certified Onsite Instructors*](#). Reflex Protect is a new defensive spray with a unique spray head. It uses Presidia Gel, which does not have pepper oil. The Certified Onsite Instructors are several experienced security trainers who conduct Sheepdog Church Security training in churches. They also offer other training, such as weapons safety.

Sheepdog Church Security also has affiliate relations with [*Worship Security Association*](#) and U.S. LawShield. Worship Security Association has 100+ training videos on church safety, including conversations with several church safety experts. [*U.S. LawShield*](#) is a membership group with legal coverage for self-defense. A member can call and get a lawyer after a use-of-force incident.

Action Points

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Safety Directors, get Safety Team members who carry trained in weapons use and have them practice.

Safety Team Members, take training for whatever weapons/devices you carry, practice using them.

2006 Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

Introduction

There are many mass killings, including those in churches, where we can only guess at the motive of the killers. They left no conversations, notes, or online postings revealing their intent and indicating or naming their targets. This is especially true when the assailant died, killed by a defender, the police, or (as is often the case) by himself or herself. However, sometimes there are motives, stated or unstated, which are clear. One of these is domestic violence.



Special Resources

As we consider the lessons learned from church shooting incidents, we should keep in mind that *Church Safety Team* members need training in how to respond, and those who are armed need training and certification in the use of their weapons.

The downloadable free resource for this month is the *Use of Force Training Record*. Click [*HERE*](#) to get it. This PDF has a page of information about the use of force. The next page is the template for the training record in six subjects: Firearm Qualification, Tactical Shoot, Drills and Exercise, Unarmed Control, Use of Force Laws, and Verbal De-escalation.[1]

Actual training in the use of force is in the *Sheepdog Church Security* training course *Basic Use of Force Laws v4*. It is available as materials for classroom instruction or as individual training online.[2]

Additional training is available through our *Certified Onsite Trainers*. [3] These trainers conduct *SDCS* training classes in churches. They also train in other subjects, such as weapons use, especially firearms and pepper spray.

From the Bible

"Behold, I cry out, 'Violence!' but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice" (Job 19:7).

They do not defend the rights of the needy (Jeremiah 5:28).

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us (Joshua 10:6).

You heard my plea, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help!' (Lamentations 3:56).

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds (Proverbs 27:23).

"She Ain't Here"

******On Sunday morning, February 26, 2006, a young man in his early-to-mid 20s, walked into Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit during the service, looking for Jamika, his 19-year-old girlfriend and the mother of his child, who had recently left him.

The young man went to the balcony, where he knew her mother, Rosa Williams, would be. Sitting down next to her, he asked where Jamika was. "She ain't here," was the reply.

"Where is she?" he asked. Rosa refused to tell him.

The young man left then came back. He pulled a short shotgun out from his coat and shot Rosa, killing her; a pellet hit the hand of her niece, who was sitting next to her. He also shot and wounded Rosa's sister then fired toward the platform, hitting only a music instrument, before leaving the building.

On the street the young man tried to hijack a car driven by a woman. Her husband came to her defense and was shot. He died the next day.

It was 5½ hours later that police found the shooter. He ran to the other side of a building. The police heard a loud boom. They found him dead with a self-inflicted big hole in his chest.

About the Killer

Other than his name, race, gender, and age (22 or 24, depending on the source), there is little known about the killer. We do know that he was an abusive person with poor control of his anger. The reason Jamika had left him was that he'd "viciously" abused her. According to a Detroit paper, responding police officers did not arrest him. She filed for a restraining order, and he countersued.[13] It was not long after this he went to Zion Hope hoping to find her.

No mention was made in news stories about the shooter's employment status or the kind of he work did. This leaves an as-yet-unconfirmed impression that he was long-term unemployed, perhaps unemployable. Neither was there any mention of a criminal history, drug or alcohol abuse, or mental illness.

Domestic Abuse and Church Shootings

The worst church shooting in the United States, the November 5, 2017 attack on the First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas, with 26 killed, was a spillover of domestic abuse. It was the worst church shooting coming from domestic violence, but not the first, and unfortunately it are likely to be more.

This is not because of culture, race, or religion. Domestic abuse occurs among members of every race and nationality, of every religion and sect, regardless of political ideology, economic status, or social class. It has more to do with the sinful human nature.

When God confronted Adam and Eve in the Garden after their disobedience, He said to Eve, "Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you" (Genesis 3:16 ESV). The first couple's sin led to the struggle for dominance in relationships, and the closest human relationship is between husband and wife (and between boyfriend and girlfriend in today's American society). When people have not learned to control their impulse to dominate, the results can be literally murderous. Bryan Pacheco of *Safe Horizon* (an agency serving victims of abuse and crime) says, "Domestic violence is about power and control." [15]

We should expect this to be addressed in our churches. After all, our Bible teaches us to have unconditional love (*agape* [a-GAH-pay]) for each other. St. Paul wrote that we should be "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21). A few verses later, he said, "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" and "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:22, 25). In other words, don't try to dominate your spouse. Later, Peter said, "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). Instead of anger and insistence on one's own way, we should show understanding.

Why go into all of this? Because not all in the church community are Christians, and even Christians have struggles in this area. When a member of a family in the church is in an intimate relationship with a domineering person who does not have control over anger, the problems can come to church.

A 2017 article in *Christianity Today* is “A Top Reason for Church Shootings: Domestic Abuse.” This was published just two days after church shootings almost 2,000 miles apart, both spillovers of domestic violence. In fact, very few attacks on places of worship are religiously motivated – although some are. Vying for the top reason are mental illness and domestic abuse. In the article, Kate Shellnutt points out that domestic violence does not always stay at home. It often spills over into the community, including churches.[16]

Lesson Learned: Be Proactive and Be Ready to Respond

Since domestic violence does come to church, we need to be proactively compassionate, hopefully bringing peace to a home, but be ready to respond to it.

Proactively Compassionate

Solomon wrote, “Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds” (Proverbs 27:23). Church leaders and the Church Safety Ministry need to be aware of the situations those in the congregation face at home. For a church leader (deacon, elder, pastor, bishop), this means a person someone with personal problems can confide in. You can’t help them if you know nothing. In the case at Zion Hope, we do not know what the pastor knew.

Work with those who face abuse at home. Listen to them. Counsel an abuser (and the couple) to address core issues. This is no guarantee that it will work out fine, but you gave them a chance. At the least, you’ll have an indication that trouble is coming your way.



Ready to Respond

Threat assessment is a key part of this process. If someone in the church community is being abused at home (as was Jamika Williams), and you know it, quietly prepare to protect the congregation from the abuser.

- ♦ Lock all but one outside door before services, then watch that door to see who comes in.
- ♦ Know where the targeted people usually sit (the abuser may already know) and watch the access to that area.
- ♦ Have someone watching for the abuser.
- ♦ Stop and talk with the abuser if he comes in.
 - ◊ Take note of his facial expressions, movements, tone of voice, and other indicators of attitude.
 - ◊ Use verbal de-escalation if needed.
 - ◊ Look for signs of a hidden weapon.
 - ◊ Delay or divert him if he starts for where the intended victimize.
 - ◊ Be ready to stop him if he goes for a weapon.
 - ◊ You likely won't have time to go after yours, but if close enough you may use unarmed defense to keep him from using his.
- ♦ Call 911 at the first sign of trouble.
- ♦ Also call for Safety Team backup.

Additional Resources

The [Worship Security Association](#) (WSA) has videos on many topics, including “Understanding Suspicious Behavior”[4] You can access this and many more through *Sheepdog Church Security*’s affiliation with WSA.[5]

Challenging someone intent on injuring or killing someone in your church has legal risks. After a use-of-force incident, a *Church Safety Team* member may need a lawyer, and need him soon. If the team member is a member of [U.S. LawShield](#), an attorney is just a call away. You can join *U.S. LawShield* through *Sheepdog Church Security*’s affiliation.[6]

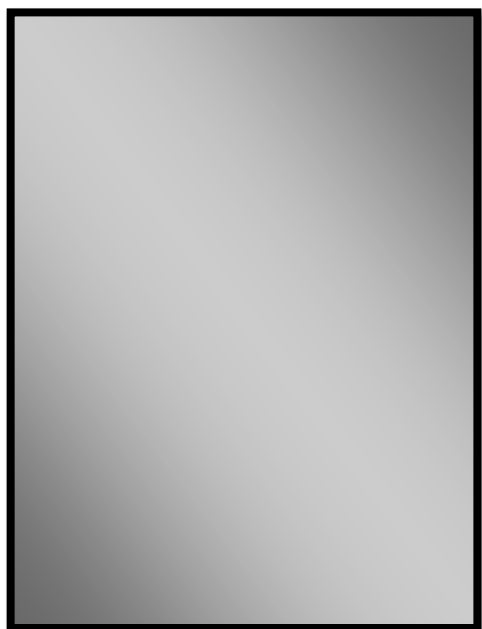
Conclusion

When a member of our church community suffers domestic violence, that violence may look for them at church. Be aware of these situations and be ready to respond if need be.

There Is More

The other three articles for July are “When You Need Cover” (Legal Defense for Self-Defense), “Legality and Lethality” (Weapon Types and Laws), and “Qualified User” (Training and Certification).

[Click Here for References](#)



WHEN YOU NEED COVER

Legal Defense for Self Defense

Introduction

On the likelihood of being sued or charged with a crime, we might say, “Not in my dreams.” But if it happens, it could be one kind of dream – a nightmare. Many well-known and/or wealthy persons and those in positions of responsibility retain lawyers. They recognize that their positions or status make them likely targets for lawsuits. Some are also easy targets for criminal charges, even when doing nothing wrong.

To tell the truth, when they use any kind of force, Church Safety Team members are also more likely than ordinary people to be sued or charged. In these cases, simply saying, “I didn’t do it,” is not enough. Even an attorney needs an attorney to represent him or her in court.

In the News

Tarrant County, Texas, September 28, 2020 - After hearing evidence presented by county prosecutors, the Tarrant County Grand Jury decided to not indict Jack Wilson, the security team member who shot and killed a gunman who had already killed two members of a church on December 29, 2019. The district attorney said, “Mr. Wilson shot his firearm to take out the threat that was endangering other lives. He did it responsibly, and he is absolutely justified in doing that under Texas law. The grand jury was correct.”[1]

East Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, February 9, 2020 - While a Sunday morning service was in progress, five of the church’s security guards were in an office. One guard’s handgun accidentally fired. The bullet ricocheted off the floor. Another guard was injured with fragments of the flooring and/or the bullet.[2] A month later the guard was charged with criminal negligence.[3]

Houston, Texas, November 21, 2019 - A man sued a church next door to his property and the church’s security guard. He claims that the guard, who was an off-duty Houston police officer, tased him on the sidewalk (public property) in front of the church in May 2017. Since the guard was a city employee, he was represented by the city’s law office, even though he was acting on behalf of the church, which had its own attorney[4]

Special Download

Our special free download for July is the [*Use of Force Training Record*](#). The record template follows a page of information about the Use of Force. The three main headings are Use of Force, Training is Essential, and Training Recommendations. The Training Record itself covers six training topics:

- ♦ Firearm Qualification
- ♦ Tactical Shoot
- ♦ Drills and Exercise
- ♦ Unarmed Control
- ♦ Use of Force Laws
- ♦ Verbal De-escalation [5]

Click [**HERE**](#) to get the *Use of Force Training Record*. You'll be subscribed to our newsletter, *The Church Guardian*, and the weekly email update.

Featured Products

We have two featured products this month: *Sheepdog Church Security's Onsite Instructors Program* and the *Worship Security Association (WSA)* series *Church Litigation Attorney at Law*.

SDCS Onsite Instructors Program

If you prefer an onsite instructor, contact one of our [*Certified Sheepdog Instructors*](#). These are independent trainers who have experience in safety and security as well as in teaching. They have passed the *Instructor Certification Test* for *Sheepdog Church Security*. Each one covers a different area of the country. If you are in a covered area, the instructor(s) can schedule training sessions at your church to certify members of your *Church Safety Team*. [6]

An Attorney at Law Discusses Church Litigation

In [*Church Litigation Attorney at Law*](#), an 8-part series, Worship Security Association founder Simon Osamoh talks with Ginny Cronin, an attorney for non-profit organizations, about the legal system and the church. Of special concern for this month is Session 8: "Litigation Awareness." [7]

From the Bible

John says that Jesus is our advocate (attorney) before God's throne – My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).

One of Paul's associates was a lawyer – Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing (Titus 3:13).

The Old Testament Law lists conditions of liability for damages – When one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share. Or if it is known that the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his (Exodus 21:35-36).

Unfortunately, Christians do sue other Christians today – When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? (1 Corinthians 6:1)

Having legal representation available is a wise thing to do – ... be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16).

Legal Defense for Self Defense

The common thread in the news stories above is legal repercussions for church safety & security personnel, even for someone who was clearly in the right (Tarrant County). All three security officers needed legal representation at the time. Houston's provision of counsel for their officer may be questionable to some people since he was off-duty at the time and acting as an agent of the church, but Church Safety Team members usually have to provide their own legal defense.



Legal Costs

Court costs and legal fees are a barrier to competent representation when being sued or charged with a crime. This is the real reason that the well-to-do often do better in court than the financially disadvantaged. It is why this country has public defenders and legal aid for the poor. Public defenders usually make the news only when a defendant in a reported criminal case has a “court-appointed attorney.”

Actually, this is not a new problem. The prophet Amos addressed this in his denunciations of Israel when he said,

“Thus says the Lord: “For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell ... the needy for a pair of sandals” (Amos 2:6).

“Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, “When will the new moon be over ... that we may buy ... the needy for a pair of sandals” (Amos 8:4-6).

This referred to an established practice of a person in a legal proceeding placing his sandal as surety in the case:

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel (Ruth 4:7).

The wealthy of Israel in the 9th Century BC were taking unfair advantage of those who could not afford court costs because they were too poor to have sandals.

Similar situations happen here and now in the United States, in spite of the closing phrase of the Pledge: “... with liberty and justice for all.” We have heard and read about cases where large corporations or wealthy persons have outlasted ordinary citizens in court cases who were no longer able to pay legal fees. We have also heard of prosecutorial abuse where an innocent defendant, even one moderately wealthy, enters a plea deal after being bankrupted while facing one charge after another. By all means, we do not want to be on the short end of these cases.

What if you are sued or charged?

To tell the truth, it is really easy – too easy – to be sued nowadays. This is especially true in a use-of-force incident, whether or not weapons were used. For example:

- ♦ Someone escorted out of the church claims he was handled too roughly.
- ♦ Someone’s eyes are damaged by pepper spray.
- ♦ Detaining a person results in a charge of false arrest.
- ♦ A gun is pointed or discharged, resulting in assault charges.

AGFinancial poses this scene: “If an armed assailant gets multiple guns fired at him, innocent bystanders could easily be killed or injured—a scenario that poses significant legal risk to the church.”[8] In such a scenario, if you had fired a gun, to whom could you turn for help?

Here's Help: U.S. LawShield®

There is help if and when defending yourself and/or others brings on a lawsuit or criminal charges. [U.S. LawShield®](#) exists for just that purpose. Its motto is “Legal Defense for Self Defense.”

U.S. LawShield®

In 2009, several attorneys in Texas saw the need of legal help for persons who used firearms in defending themselves, their families, their friends, or others. Their concern centered around protecting citizen’s Second Amendment rights, especially when used in self-defense. Many times, the rights of people who defended the lives of themselves and others were lost in the legal system. A pool of lawyers agreed to cover subscribers who needed an attorney for defense in a firearms use case.

It started as Texas LawShield, but as word got around, people from other states wanted to sign up. Members in Texas also wanted coverage when they travelled out of state. Texas LawShield began extending coverage to neighboring states, adding attorneys licensed in those states. Finally, the organization changed its name to U.S. LawShield® in recognition of its national status.

How It Works

U.S. Law Shield is a members-only legal defense provider. When you join, you have access to attorneys licensed in your state and around the nation. You can consult with an attorney to find out how the law affects your carrying and use of a firearm in your state or local jurisdiction. One will answer within 72 hours. If this is an emergency, such as when a firearm has been displayed or used in a threatening situation, an attorney is available through U.S. LawShield’s Response 365 program. This means that you do not have to be without counsel when you really need it.

For Church Safety & Security

Members include persons on church safety and security teams. You can join U.S. LawShield through Sheepdog Church Security’s affiliate relationship.[9]

Conclusion


If you have used a weapon in a church security incident, you will most likely need a lawyer. One is available if you are a U.S. LawShield® member.

There Is More

The other three articles for July are “Legality and Lethality” (Weapon Types and Laws), “Qualified User” (Training and Certification), and “2006 Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Shooting” (Lesson Learned).

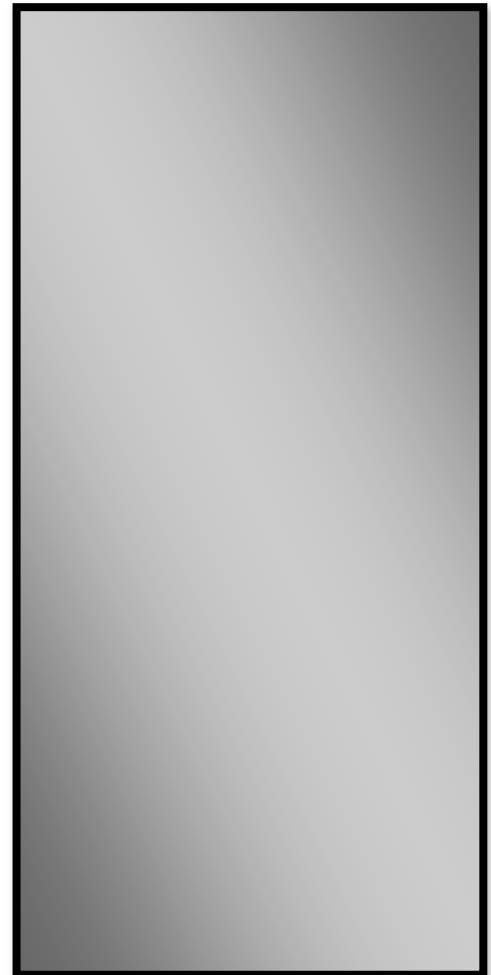
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FBSN is a network of security and law enforcement professionals dedicated to continuously improving security of faith-based organizations.

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LEGALITY AND LETHALITY

Weapon Types and Laws

Introduction

Weapons vary in the damage done to target persons. They also vary in the ways they work and how they are used. In church safety and security, weapons are considered control devices, because the overall motivation is not injury, but maintaining control and preventing or stopping violence. One thing almost all of these devices have in common is laws regulating their use. Another is that many require training, qualification, and certification.

In the News

The incidents here were not church-related, but they illustrate the liability of misusing "less-than-lethal" weapons which may be carried by safety & security volunteers in some churches.

- ♦ Baton

Louisville, Kentucky, May 31, 2020 - A Louisville police officer allegedly hit a kneeling protestor in the head with a baton. The protestor had her hands in the air. A little over a year later, the officer was indicted by a federal grand jury of "deprivation of rights under color of law." [2]

- ♦ Pepper Spray

Birmingham, Alabama, 2006-2011 - School Resource Officers in Birmingham public schools had been using pepper spray (which included some tear gas) for discipline of minor infractions. A civil rights lawsuit was brought on behalf of the students. In 2015, a federal judge ruled that the SROs had violated the civil rights of the students. The key argument was that the spray was not used for self-defense, but as punishment. [3]

St. Louis County, Missouri, 2018-2019 - Pepper spray has been carried by students and security guards for self-defense in some St. Louis County school districts. Some also carried stored-charge devices (stun guns and Tasers). One incident resulted in hospitalization for some students. This was in spite of a St. Louis County ordinance allowing only law enforcement officers to carry defensive devices of any kind (even non-lethal ones) in schools. [4][5]

♦ Kubotan

A well-known British entertainer was found guilty of carrying an offensive weapon. Police found a kubotan keyring on him when he was detained for DUI. Vague laws were left open to interpretation.[6]

♦ Taser

Wilson, Oklahoma, July 4, 2019 - Two police officers allegedly Tased a man more than fifty times. This resulted in the man's death. A year later, the officers were charged with second-degree murder due to their reckless misuse of a "non-lethal" weapon.[7]

Phoenix, Arizona, April 1, 2018 - A woman allegedly contact-used a Taser to awaken her teen son in time to go to church for Easter. The device left a pair of marks on his leg. She spent Easter in jail and was charged with child abuse. This was not defense of any kind.[8]

Special Resource

The news stories above show the need for *Church Safety Team* members to be trained in the proper and safe use of all protective devices they might carry and the laws governing them. Our special free download for this month is the *Use of Force Training Record*. Following a one-page coverage of *Use-of-Force* training is a training record for Firearm Qualification, Tactical Shoot, Drills and Exercise, Unarmed Control, Use of Force Laws, and Verbal De-escalation.[9] Click [*HERE*](#) to get it, as well as our monthly newsletter, The Church Guardian, and the weekly email update.

The featured *Sheepdog Church Security* training course for this month is *Basic Use of Force Laws v4*. [1] Also featured is the Certified Onsite Instructors program.[10]

Lethality of Weapons

Weapons are usually classified as lethal or non-lethal, but this classification is not as simple as it sounds. Some are more lethal (or likely to be lethal) than others. For now we'll consider weapons that a Church Safety Team member might carry.



From the Bible

The Bible names several weapons: spears, javelins, darts, bows and arrows, slings, clubs (rods), swords, daggers, and an oxgoad. It alludes to others, such as battle-axes and perhaps pikes. These include both melee and ranged weapons. The Bible also names persons who are especially skilled in certain weapons.

Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!" (Psalm 35:3)

And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword (Exodus 17:13).

After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel (Judges 3:31).

So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out (Nehemiah 4:21).

They were bowmen and could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right or the left hand; they were Benjaminites, Saul's kinsmen (1 Chronicles 12:2).

And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly (Judges 3:21 KJV).

Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin (Job 41:26)

A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club ... (Proverbs 25:18).

And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging (2 Chronicles 26:14).

The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the Lord, when he strikes with his rod (Isaiah 30:31).

Lethal Weapons

We generally consider firearms as the most lethal. They are ranged weapons with a long effective distance and can kill with one shot. Small or medium caliber handguns (.22/7mm to .38/9mm) are the firearms most used by church security volunteers. They are lighter and smaller than heavy caliber guns and can be more easily concealed (providing the carrier has a permit). Since they are ranged weapons, they are effective at distances up to a hundred feet or more (depending on the gun, the ammunition, and the user's skill).

Next on the list are edged and piercing weapons, with longer blades or shafts being the deadliest. Unless thrown, these are melee weapons, used when within reach of the attacker. Knives are the edged weapons most likely to be carried by members of a *Church Security Team*. However, the kinds of knives carried are more likely used for utility than for defense - a pocket knife or multi-tool instead of a bowie knife or dagger. An example of this is the *Schrade SCHA3BS* in the *Sheepdog Church Security* store on *Amazon*. The blade is only 2.9" long, suitable for opening boxes and cutting rope or straps. The butt of the handle can be used as an emergency window breaker.[11]

Piercing weapons are not usual items for a Church Safety Team (imagine walking around the church with a javelin or a bow & quiver), but someone somewhere might carry an ice pick (your great-grandmother's defensive weapon).

Less Lethal Weapons

Also called "non-lethal" or "less-lethal" weapons, these are the popular alternatives to guns and knives for self-defense. The best-known at this time are defensive sprays and stored-charge devices. Also carried by some church safety volunteers are kubotans and expandable batons. Another less-than-lethal defensive device is the fire escape club (a window-breaker shaped like a small baseball bat), which we'll treat like a wood baton. Not yet available for Church Safety Teams is a new non-lethal restraining device, the Bola Wrap.

Defensive Sprays

Defensive sprays are irritants which cause tears, blurred vision, sneezing, etc. in the person sprayed. They usually contain one or both of two substances: CS (tear gas) and OC (oleoresin capsicum, also known as pepper oil). Tear gas, as the name implies, causes eyes to weep (think of cutting up a bushel of strong onions). It is commonly used as a riot-control agent. Pepper oil actually causes a burning sensation, not only in the eyes, but in the nasal passages and the throat, even on the skin. It's like rubbing your eyes after handling hot peppers.

Batons

Batons are the modern form of the biblical rod. They have been used by police for a long time as a pain control device. Originally made of wood, many are now metal rods or tubes. Extendable batons are telescoping metal tubes. Short enough to carry without getting in the way, they can be deployed to their maximum length by releasing a spring or by flipping them out.

Excessive force with a baton, especially when aimed at the head or throat, can cause serious injury, even death, which is why use of the baton on the head of a kneeling protester was considered criminal in Louisville.[2]

Stored-Charge Devices

Stun guns and Tasers are stored-charge devices. When contact is made with a person, an electric charge is released from the device's capacitors. A stun gun has to make direct contact to deliver the charge. A Taser fires two pointed electrodes trailing wires connected to the stored charge. The electric shock disturbs the person's nervous system, causing loss of balance and coordination, cramps and spasms, and pain.

We tend to think of stun guns and Tasers as safe, but there are safety limits to their use. When officers in Wilson, OK, Tased a suspect 50 times, it resulted in death.[7]

Kubotans

A kubotan is a weighted key ring pendant that is short enough to be enclosed by one's fist. Invented by Takayuki Kubota, a martial arts master and instructor (and named after him), it adds weight to the user's fist. It can also be used as a strike weapon. Originally a short rod, it is now made in several shapes, many pointed.

Generally safe (causing only pain and minor injury), serious injury - possibly death - can result from hitting an eye, the temple, or the throat with the tip of a kubotan, especially one which is pointed.

Bola Wrap

The bola was used by indigenous people of Argentina to hunt game and lasso livestock. It is a cord with a weight at each end and a hand-hold in the middle, which may be a tab or another cord with its own weight. Swung like a sling and thrown, the weights wrap the cord around the legs of the animal. It was also used to capture people.[14]

The recently-invented Bola Wrap is a gun that fires two tiny weights with a long line between them. It is now being used by several law enforcement agencies and won't be available for civilian use (such as in church safety & security) for some time. So far, it has captured several suspects without inflicting injuries. More use will show how safe it actually is.

Legality of Weapons

Most of the laws we have to consider concerning weapons we might use in a Church Safety Ministry are at the state and local levels. These laws address

1. whether the weapon itself is legal within that jurisdiction,
2. conditions for concealed and open carrying,
3. where it may be carried, and
4. penalties for unlawful use (such as in the commission of a crime).

We have come to expect these conditions to be applied to firearms, but in most states and localities they are applied to almost anything considered a weapon, even those that are less-than-lethal. These include all those which may be carried by members of *Church Safety Teams*: firearms, knives, defensive sprays, stored-charge devices, kubotans, and batons.

Laws change. For instance, a revision of Ohio's weapons regulations went into effect April 2021.[15] It pays to be up-to-date on weapons laws, both lethal and less lethal.

Firearms

Almost all of the news we hear about weapons laws concerns firearms. This is natural since firearms are the most deadly in terms of how many people can be killed in one incident. The only rivals for this level of mass lethality are explosives, arson, and vehicles.

Courts have upheld the Second Amendment rights of citizens in general to own and carry firearms. However, laws may restrict exercise of this right by denying it to convicted felons and persons with certain kinds of mental illness. Domestic violence can also result in the loss of this right. These are the trigger conditions looked for in background checks for firearm purchases. Firearm use is an enhancement for felony charges, such as assault, robbery, and murder. In most states, knowingly selling a firearm to a felon is a crime.

In recent years most changes in firearm laws deal with concealed carrying of weapons (CCW) and where firearms may be carried and used. Some states ban open carry where it might cause panic. In many states, guns are not allowed in schools, healthcare facilities, courts, and government offices unless carried by on-duty law enforcement officers and (in some places) licensed security guards. Some jurisdictions allow CCW in places where open carry is not allowed, while some restrict CCW and allow open carry.

Many states require applicants for CCW permits or registration to take and pass a course on gun safety and regulations.

With this patchwork quilt of firearms regulations, it pays to check the laws in your own state and local jurisdiction before bringing a handgun to church. Also check with the governing board of your church for their weapons policy.

Check with your Church Safety Director, who has a say in which team members will carry firearms, open and CCW. Do the same for any other weapons you would bring to church. More than just following policy, this lets the Director know who has what.

Knives

Laws on carrying and using knives varies greatly by locality except where state weapons law pre-empts local law. Especially concerning since they are often overlooked are the definitions of knives which can be carried concealed. A good source for state laws on knives is [KnifeUp](#). Click on your state's abbreviation on the list and it will bring up Peter Stec's summary of its knife laws. However, not all summaries are up-to-date. Each state's summary has the date last updated at the top. For instance, Minnesota's was last updated Jan. 21, 2020, Ohio's on March 10, 2021, and Rhode Island's on June 10, 2013.[16]

Of concern to a *Church Safety Team* is which knives can be legally carried concealed, such as in one's pocket. The question is, "When is a knife a weapon or a lethal weapon?" Some states' laws were so vague that a small pocket knife or pen knife could have been banned, depending on who was determining it (such as a LEO who thinks you look suspicious). Most determine whether a knife is a weapon by the length of the blade, usually from 3 to 6 inches. In those states, the Schrade knife's 2.9" blade would pass as not a weapon. Other considerations come into play, especially the obvious intent of the knife. In most cases, daggers and stilettos are weapons, along with bowie knives.

Many regulations also have age restrictions and the circumstances in which a certain knife and how it's carried are legal.

As with anything else, including a chair leg or a brick, how it is used determines whether a knife is a weapon. A knife that's too short to pierce the heart or lung can cut a jugular, pierce a temple, or slash a wrist.

Defensive Sprays

It seems that most people are unaware of regulations for defensive sprays with pepper oil or tear gas. Of concern is careless or intentional misuse. Many states have age limitations for owning and carrying these sprays. They may be restricted from persons convicted of violent crimes. Some limit the size which may be carried. [World Population Review](#) has a state-by-state listing of pepper spray laws.[17]

Stored-Charge Devices

Like firearms, electric-discharge weapons face a patchwork quilt of regulations. A number of websites have state-by-state summaries, but present the topic in different formats. Outdoor Magazine follows the listings with information about stun guns and Tasers.[18] Another site, Department Of Self Defense, has two lists of stun gun restrictions: "States That Stunning Devices Are Restricted" and "Cities Where Stunning Devices Are Restricted." This is followed by a listing of Taser restrictions (5 states).[19]

Kubotans

The kubotan is rarely named in weapons legislation and regulations, but may be included generally in categories or just simply not be an issue. However, as in Scotland, it may be considered an "offensive weapon" by interpretation of a vaguely-phrased statute.[6] Ask local law enforcement or the county prosecutor's office about carrying a kubotan.

Batons

A baton is also called a nightstick, billy club, or bludgeon. A baseball bat, which is heavier, is a potentially deadly weapon if used as a club on someone's head. The baton, which is lighter, is not as deadly, but can be misused. It is a dangerous device, because it can cause serious damage if used on someone's head or neck. Therefore, batons are generally regulated. It is illegal in eight states, but legal in the other 42 states and D.C.

In many of the states where batons are legal, their use is limited to law enforcement officers. In some of the states where ordinary citizens can legally have one, they need to take classes on its use and be registered.

Expandable batons receive special attention for two reasons. First, they are made of metal. Second, they can extend up to 36 inches, depending on the make and model.

Common to all state laws concerning batons, they are to be used only for defense, not as an offensive weapon or an instrument of punishment.[20]

What if You Need Legal Help?

If you have used any weapon in a use-of-force incident, you may need legal counsel. This is certainly so if a lethal weapon was used, and might even be so if it was a less-than-lethal defensive device. If you are a member of [U.S. LawShield](#), then a phone call will get you in touch with an attorney. If you are a member, then all your legal costs from the incident are covered. Sheepdog Church Security has an affiliate relationship with U.S. LawShield, so you can [join them](#) as an affiliate member.[21]

Conclusion

When you want something in your hand for self-defense, ask a few questions: How lethal is it? Is it legal? What are the rules for using it?

There Is More

There are three other articles for this month: "When You Need Cover" (Legal Defense for Self-Defense), "Qualified User" (Training and Certification), and "2006 Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Shooting" (Lesson Learned).

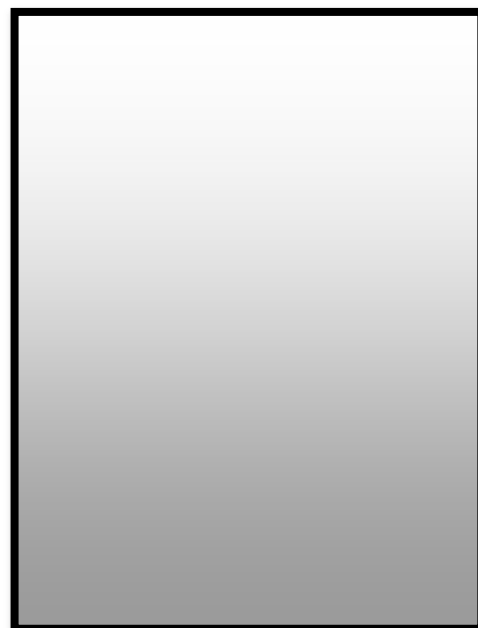
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QUALIFIED USER

Training and Certification

Introduction

When we learn to drive, we also learn to check the oil and have it changed regularly, check the tires, turn the lights off when we get out, etc. This is besides learning how to operate the vehicle and follow the rules of the road. We learn to be safe drivers and to take good care of our vehicles.



It should be that way with weapons. Learn how to use them, how to take care of them, and how to own, carry, and use them legally. Those are the requirements not only for firearms, but in some states for other weapons, too - even pepper spray.

In the News

Omaha, Nebraska, August 2020 - E. Johnson, a life-long gun enthusiast, retired from his job on the East Coast, and moved to Nebraska. There he specializes in training churches' "life safety teams" in defending their flocks. He finds "that regular, focused training is a vital element for any church starting a life safety team." This includes training in the safe use of weapons.[2]

Hurst, Texas, and other towns, February 2020 - Several firms are training church safety team members in tactical shooting. This includes live action using laser guns which create the bangs and expel casings while recording "hits" with the light beams. [3]

West Chester, Ohio, November 2017 - News of mass killings in churches and other places of worship has spurred a surge in demand for tactical training by safety teams in communities of faith. This includes not only firearms, but less-than-lethal weapons. [4]

Waco, Texas, May 2019 - Cadets in a police academy are learning how to use pepper spray. They also learn to keep functioning even when they have been sprayed. As an instructor said, "They need to know that if they get sprayed they still can't stop." [5]

Special Resource

The *Use of Force Training Record*[6] is the special free download for July. A brief summary of the use of force in church safety ministries is followed by the training record for this subject. The training topics are:

1. Firearm Qualification
2. Tactical Shoot
3. Drills and Exercise
4. Unarmed Control
5. Use of Force Laws
6. Verbal De-escalation

When you click [**HERE**](#) to get it, you will be signed up to receive our monthly newsletter (*The Church Guardian*) and our weekly updates by email (that is if you're not already subscribed).

Learn more about the Use of Force through the *Church Security Guide* article "Use of Force Training"[7] and the SDCS training course *Basic Use of Force Laws v4*.^[1]

From the Bible

Warriors in the Old Testament learned how to use their weapons, then developed their skills through practice.

When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them ... (Genesis 14:14).

He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze (2 Samuel 22:35 and Psalm 18:34).

It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before (Judges 3:2).

Esau was a skillful hunter (Genesis 25:27).

They were bowmen and could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right or the left hand ... (1 Chronicles 12:2).

Trained Hands

King David said, "[God] trains my hands for war" (2 Sam. 22:35 and Ps. 18:34). David was an expert slinger, as were the Benjaminite soldiers (1 Chron. 12:2). He had practiced to perfection while herding sheep. Then when he became part of King Saul's army, he had to learn how to use the sword, the spear, and the bow & arrow. Training his hands built muscle memory and eye memory. Actually using these weapons in battle provided the training of experience.

We can learn about weapons through reading, videos, and online instruction, but it is hands-on learning and practice which really nails it down. We all know that shooting at the firing range keeps our aim sharp. If you are learning how to properly use a baton, you need to practice with it enough to develop the feel and control your swing.

Firearms

With firearms, safety is a major concern. If you accidentally spray yourself with pepper spray or tear gas, you can wash it off and - barring some physical condition—recover. Accidentally discharging a firearm can wound you or another person, possibly leading to serious injury or death.

Anyone who's been in the military knows that cleaning and maintaining your weapon is critical. A clean rifle or pistol operates as it should, but if it hasn't been cleaned it may misfire or jam. The same is true for your hunting shotgun or rifle.

In the *Church Security Guide* article, Kris recommends several kinds of Use of Force Training to be conducted annually:

- ♦ Firearm Qualification - Preferably to your state's P.O.S.T (Peace Officers Standards and Training) or Licensed Security Guard standard.
- ♦ Tactical Shoot - Learning to shoot under simulated combat conditions.
- ♦ Force on Force - Using Airsoft guns, practice responding to an active shooter. Use several scenarios in different areas of the church. Take turns playing the roles of attacker and defender or different defender roles (containment and engagement).
- ♦ Shoot and Don't Shoot - On the same day as Force on Force, train to determine whether deadly force should be used. This is to teach the team that deadly force is not always the right response.
- ♦ Unarmed Control Techniques - It is far more likely your team will have to physically restrain a violent person than to use deadly force.

Non-Lethal to Less-Lethal Weapons

Safety in use is also a concern for some non-lethal to less-lethal weapons, such as batons, electric discharge devices, and defensive sprays. To the firearms training we can add sessions in non-lethal weapons that are legal in your state and that your team members are carrying or are likely to carry. Kubotans and knives can be added if state or local laws cover them.

For example, police in several jurisdictions are training in the use of defensive sprays and stunning devices. The first concern has been avoiding excessive force resulting in unnecessary injury and death. Another is avoiding protests, lawsuits, and political repercussions. Churches also want to avoid injuries or deaths, as well as the bad reputation, lawsuits, and possible criminal charges which could result.

Weapons Training and Certification

The first mission of the National Rifle Association (NRA) was teaching firearms safety. Every year, people are accidentally shot by hunters. Sometimes the saddest thing a person has said has been, "I didn't know it was loaded," or "I thought it was an animal." There are also hunters injured by misfiring rifles and shotguns. Thanks to this training, it's now common for hunters to clean their guns and sight them in before the season opens.

P.O.S.T.

Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T) is the gold standard of weapons training in the United States. Although it is at a much higher level than what may be needed in your church, it at least assures people that the Safety Team members who carry are competent. At the very least, they will be able shoot at a level recognized by the state.

CCW Classes

A number of states require applicants for a Concealed Carrying of a Weapon (CCW) permit to complete a training course before being issued a permit. The course includes both classroom sessions and live shooting. In some states, a course developed by the NRA is used. Most courses are all in one day.

The classroom CCW training may include cleaning and maintenance of the firearm, laws about when and where to carry, how to carry, and liability. Many states require a demonstration of one's ability to shoot safely and accurately. Classes may be simpler for renewals.

Local Classes

Some local police departments may offer firearms safety training. On the other hand, members of the congregation who are law enforcement officers or military veterans may conduct weapons safety classes covering firearms, defensive sprays, and stored-charge devices. Law enforcement officers have the advantage of knowing weapons regulations of the state and the local jurisdiction.

Use-of-Force Simulator

Designed for training law enforcement officers for confrontational situations, the Use-of-Force Simulator is also being used to demonstrate to municipal officials and the public what a police officer faces. The Simulator has 700 interactive scenarios. In some of them, the "situation" can end with de-escalation.

Defense Training Organizations

There are many organizations out there training people in using weapons for defense. This includes not only firearms, but defensive sprays (both tear gas and pepper spray), stored-charge devices (stun guns and tasers), and unarmed defensive moves. Some also teach baton use.

Manufacturers of defensive devices -for instance, Axon (maker of Taser)[8] and *Reflex Protect*[9] - also teach defense in general besides how to use their non-lethal to less-lethal weapons.

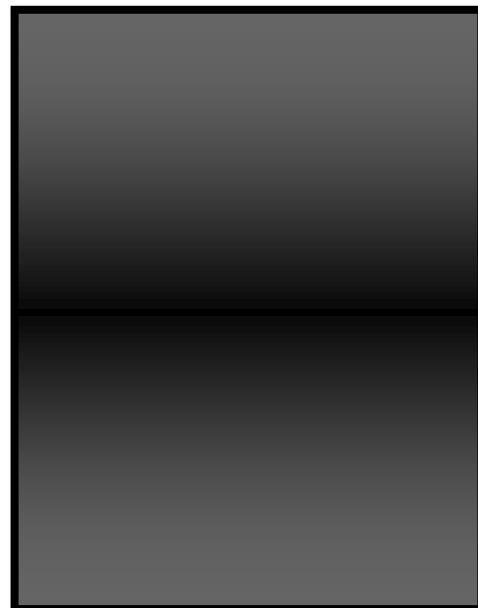
Certified Onsite Instructors

Sheepdog Church Security has several persons certified as onsite instructors. They will come to your church - if it is in their range - to conduct classes to certify each safety team member in the *Sheepdog Church Security* training series. So far, the listed instructors are in Arkansas, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Besides the SDCS certification, they also conduct weapons training, all in firearms and most in pepper sprays.

All of these instructors are experienced in areas such as law enforcement, military, firearms instruction, and/or defensive equipment sales & service. If you have the experience necessary, wish to teach church safety personnel, and would consider becoming a *Certified Sheepdog Instructor* in your area, get in touch with Kris Moloney at (612) 470-7364.[10]

WSA Use of Force Series

The *Worship Security Association (WSA)*, a *Sheepdog Church Security* affiliate, has a library of 100+ training videos.[11] Part of this collection is a 4-part series on the use of force. In "Physical Tactics ~ Use of Force" WSA founder Simon Osamoh converses with Joe Bezotte, an FBI agent for 25 years who now works in church safety and is a security consultant and instructor. The topics of the videos are Preview Use of Force, Understanding Use of Force, Unarmed Tactics, and Governance.[12]



Just in Case You Need a Lawyer

We all know that firearms and knives are dangerous, even deadly, and using them risks legal liability. Also, no matter how harmless a non-lethal weapon may be - or seem to be - or how well you're trained, using it may result in a lawsuit or criminal charges. If and when you have used a weapon and someone is injured, you need a lawyer (as the saying goes) "now, if not sooner."

Actually, we're not kidding about the "sooner" part. When force is used and it involves a weapon, you likely do not have time to look for an attorney. If you have one on retainer, you can then just make a call. That is the mission of *U.S. LawShield*. There are attorneys on board across the nation. If you are a member, a lawyer in your state is available within 72 hours for consultation, but immediately available in an emergency.

Sheepdog Church Security has an affiliate relationship with *U.S. LawShield*. You can sign up as a *SDCS* [affiliate member](#) for legal coverage just in case you need it.[13]

Conclusion

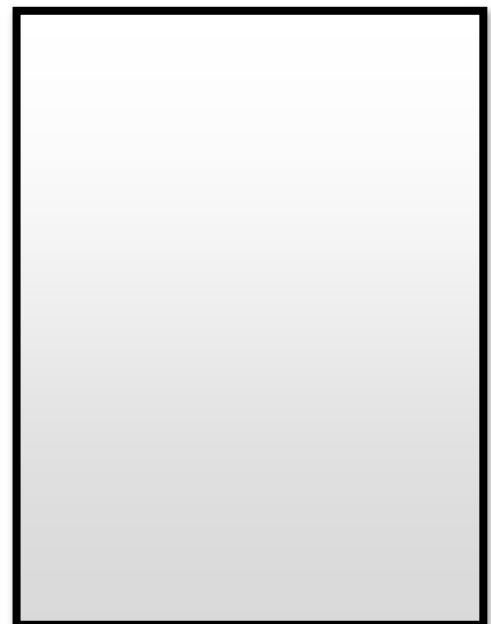
Training is essential for carrying a firearm as a *Church Security Team* member. It is advisable, and required in some states, for non-lethal to less-lethal weapons like pepper spray, batons, and Tasers. If you intend on carrying a weapon of any kind as a Safety Team member, be properly trained. **

There Is More

The other articles for this month are "When You Need Cover" (Legal Defense for Self-Defense), "Legality and Lethality" (Weapon Types and Laws), and "The 2006 Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Shooting" (Lesson Learned).

[Click Here for References](#)

Protect My Ministry would love to send you free background screening videos to help you understand the process of background checks and show you how to handle this delicate topic with your volunteers and staff. Also, show you how to easily streamline the process of implementing a child safety training program is.



CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS BASED ON THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE OF KRIS MOLONEY AND THE SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY TEAM. HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY.

CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

Hosted by Kris P. Moloney

CSRC267: Legal Defense

When You Need Cover Legal Defense for Self Defense

[CLICK HERE](#) TO LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD

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CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

Hosted by Kris P. Moloney

CSRC268: Weapons

Legality and Lethality Weapon Types and Laws

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CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

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CSRC269: Weapons Training

Qualified User Training and Certification

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Hosted by Kris P. Moloney

CSRC270: Z.M.B. Church Shooting

Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church Shooting

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FREE MONTHLY DOWNLOAD



USE OF FORCE TRAINING RECORD

Your Safety Ministry needs to view the use of force as a last resort, something to employ only if harm will come to people without its use. No Ministry wants to use force but must prepare to use it properly and effectively, especially if that Ministry has armed Safety Team Members.

Protect God's People with Our Church Safety Resource to get this free download, Click the Picture and enter your Email Address. You will receive an email with a download Button. Click the Button in the email to Download the Safety Ministry Resource.

MAIL CALL

Messages from Sheepdogs across the country

Andrew Long

"I was on the Security and Usher team for a rather large church. After meeting the leadership of the church there I found out that they were in need of a formal security team and since I had some training already, it seemed like a perfect fit. Unfortunately, I had no idea how to start this new ministry or what to do. A good friend of mine who was a retired police officer at church gave me your name and website. I ordered the entire suite of training seminars and they have been very valuable in training this ministry of approximately 25 volunteers on how to protect the church and its congregants. all I can say is that our ministry could not be what it is today without Sheepdog Church Security training and instruction. Thank you so very much for your insightfulness to this need we unfortunately have to have today in our churches."



SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

Teamwork

BY: TERRY B.

With the Covid experience finally “Behind Us”, at least for now, Most churches are starting to reopen and meet in person again.

As they do, Medical Teams, Security Teams, and Parking Teams are not only becoming the norm, they are now being depended on more than ever to ensure a safe and orderly service that is compliant with all national, state, and local requests. I’m not going to get into whether or not your church should or should not still require a mask to enter. That will be entirely up to your leadership. I have strong opinions on the mask issue but I will in reverence to the scriptures point you to Mark 9:42 in the category of it is better to hold your tongue (or at least cover it) to avoid causing anyone to stumble during these times that many are fearful. Justly or unjustly as it may be. (I’m trying not to editorialize here and its really hard for me!)

But for now, Let’s talk Medical Ministry. Note I said ministry, not just service, but a ministry. I see the medical response team at church the same as the safety or security team...A Ministry first and foremost! There are times people will be coming in in a condition that you may view as “less than appropriate for church”, but we are here to minister to them. If we can do that with the skills the Lord has blessed us with, all the better.

In the last couple of years, I have had the honor of dropping some knowledge bombs about how to start, recruit, and train a Medical Team at your church. I want to expand just a bit into the other aspects of the safety team as well and even set up a scenario that shows how they can all work together to achieve the best outcome during a time of crisis. If the teams run in coordinated response, the incident can go from a huge issue to a barely noted incident.

Let's take the situation that I believe has or will happen at every single organization out there. The "boy vs wall" call that every church medical team will get. By the way... Wall always wins!

The call comes over the radio "Medical Team to the nursery". Upon receiving the call, you respond to the call over the radio that you are, en route. (For more information on proper radio procedures, See my prior article on radio usage for medical personnel) So you get there and assess the situation. You call in on the radio that you have arrived on scene and find a child unconscious. Yes, you are correct in thinking that most kids do not lose consciousness upon hitting a wall, that's why God made them so durable!

As you establish the airway patency and start your assessment for cardiac function, you stop and have someone call 911 and get the ambulance on the way. After establishing that the kid will most likely be sent out, we would have the children's ministry staff get the parents there. As we finish up our assessment and start packaging the patient up for transport, we get as much info from parents as to history and contact information to provide to the EMS provider. (Expect a future article on EMS trip sheets and medical team documentation)

As you're doing your due diligence to make sure the kid is well taken care of, The Security Team is hard at work. They are keeping the scene safe and controlling pedestrian traffic in the area limiting the people with access to the area to as few as possible to allow the medical team to work as well as to keep the privacy of the family involved. This is also where they would be controlling evidence in a case that there was a possible crime involved. They are also running back and forth to retrieve any needed supplies for the medical team.

Immobilization is something that you may or may not deem part of your training, but at minimum, you want to make sure the kid is not moved if you suspect a possible spinal cord injury at all. If the child is placed on a spinal long board, this is not the time to find out if a stretcher with a long board will fit on your elevators. Take it from experience, we found out the hard way that a stretcher with a long board DOES NOT fit on many smaller elevators! This is why we promote training with the local EMS providers to see what works and what doesn't before it is needed. That said, it is vital that security be keeping the scene safe and also for the Parking Team to have the driveway and parking lots cleared for the incoming EMS unit. The Parking Team waves the ambulance into the correct door, Or the door that prior training with EMS has established as the go to door. The Security Team establishes a safe and protected route for entry and egress of EMS. The Medical Team provides report to the paramedics, and off the stretcher goes escorted by family.

A job well done by all! Only because the teams have practiced and trained together to make it as seamless as possible. The old adage, If you Fail to Train, you Train to Fail comes in here very predominantly. Afterwards, do some sort of after-action review with all those involved. It can be as formal or as casual as your team determines, but make sure all those involved are thanked for their ministry as well as asked what could have been done better. Give each servant heart a voice!

So that's the Security, Parking, and Medical Teams serving in a nutshell. A great example of a Holistic approach to ministry serving the congregants of your organization.

For more information on this and anything else you would like, email me at terry@churchemergency.com and I would be happy to talk more about this or any article that I have written in the last few years here at Sheepdog Church Security magazine.



Terry Berringer

terry@churchemergency.com

412-527-3673

Terry Berringer is the owner/operator of Church Emergency Consulting. He was the founder, developer, trainer and director of the security, parking and medical teams of one of the largest congregations in south-west Pennsylvania for over 20 years.

To learn more, click on the image below:



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SHEEPDOG SEMINAR FOR CHURCHES

We urge all church safety teams to attend as well as all personnel who work with youth. Information shared is valuable to ALL who attend, not just "church-goers."

Police officers also encouraged to attend. Continuing Education Credit is given to Oklahoma Police Officers.

PRESENTERS

Jimmy Meeks is a 35-year retired police officer and a minister since 1973. He has conducted about 400 safety seminars for churches. He was also a production assistant in the award-winning movie Faith Under

Fire, based on the church massacre in Daingerfield, Texas in 1980 (five worshipers were shot and killed - 10 more were injured).

DATE AND TIME

Saturday, August 21, 2021
8:30 A.M. - 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Live Online Via Zoom

LEARN MORE

[Sheepdog Safety Training](#)

PREREGISTER

[eventbrite](#)

SHEEPDOG CORNER

Hi Sheepdog,

We have some really exciting news to share with you. After hundreds of conversations with Sheepdogs around the country, I learned the hardest thing for any of us to do is get our Safety Team trained and certified. Not to mention, getting church staff and other volunteers trained.

So, this summer we have been working really hard to provide you with more ways to train your Safety Team, staff and volunteers. Essentially, we have embraced the power of Zoom Meetings. This allows me to facilitate the training for you.

We have reorganized ourselves as an online training school where you and your team can enroll. Enrolled students can participate in our Online Training Events. After attending all the training, you may take the online Certification Test to become certified with Sheepdog Church Security for two years.

It's one more way to engage your team with quality training. And with the Online Training Events you and your team can participate in discussion and ask questions directly to me.

Watch for the Exclusive, Early, and Open Enrollment periods starting in August. (Seats will be Limited)

Your Loyal Companion in Christ,

Kris P. Moloney



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A Police Officer with over 18 years of experience and a retired Army Captain and Company Commander. He has certifications in Crime Prevention, Security Assessments, and the Crime Free Program. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Ministry and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.

[Kris P. Moloney](#)