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Presentation Title: *“House of Worship Emergency Response”*

Presentation Description:

This program is designed for church staff and addresses emergencies that can typically occur at churches throughout the week. This program supplements Meus Rex’s *Sanctuary Action Plan for Emergencies* course. This course addresses additional concerns that can happen at churches aside from those that can occur at the traditional Sunday morning service. The purpose of this course is to discuss basic and advanced preventative measures to mitigate serious crimes in churches. This course assists churches in planning for potential emergencies and defines specific response procedures for a variety of emergencies.

Crimes and terrorists threats against churches continue to increase in the United States. In 2008, 24,445 crimes in churches were reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting System from participating law enforcement agencies. These crimes included homicide, rape, kidnapping, and arson. In the last 14 years, there have been more than 650 recorded deadly force incidents in United States churches. Each year, there are approximately 8,000 crimes involving theft or robbery from the church. Since 2008, the FBI has reported a steady increase in the number of crimes occurring in churches.

Safety and security threats in churches come from both internal and external sources. Background investigations of thousands of church staff have found that 9% of staff members are ineligible to work with child because of previous convictions for crimes against children. In addition, approximately 25% of the crimes committed at churches are committed by church staff members or church volunteers.

In this presentation, attendees will discuss the following: safety and security of pastoral staff, developing security teams, security audits, burglary and theft prevention, church infrastructure security, church school safety (including active shooter response), and staff background investigations. Also discussed is the creation of emergency response

kits and development of emergency action plans. Attendees will also be provided tips on creating a safety and security ministry within their church.

Presentation Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe specific Biblical scriptures that reference the safety and security of church attendees.
2. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe statistical crime data involving churches in the United States.
3. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe the problem of church financial fraud, and methods to combat fraud.
4. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to discuss methods to prevent sexual abuse in the church.
5. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to discuss specific considerations for threats against pastoral staff, including stalking, harassment, kidnapping, and violent assaults.
6. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe developing emergency action plans for a variety of potential emergencies.
7. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe how to establish a safety and security response team for the church.

Amount of time needed:

This class can be four hours.

Prerequisites:

None

Resources Needed:

Computer projector, audio