CONFRONTING VIOLENCE IN HOUSES OF WORSHIP

BEHAVIOR WARNINGS

- Socially isolated
- Threats of violence
- Unstable emotional responses
- Intense anger and hostility
- Loss of significant relationships
- Talk of suicide
- Increased absenteeism
- Depression or withdraw
- Expressions of paranoia or depression
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Unsolicited focus on dangerous weapons
- Feeling either arrogant and supreme, or powerless

SURVEILLANCE INDICATORS

- Persons using or carrying video/camera/observation equipment in or near the facility over an extended period.
- Persons parking, standing, or loitering in the same area over a multiple-day period with no apparent reasonable explanation.
- Persons excessively inquiring about practices pertaining to the facility and its operations or the supporting infrastructure (telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water).
- Persons observed or reported to be observing facility receipts or deliveries.
- Employees observed or reported to be willfully associating with suspicious individuals, changing working behavior, or working more irregular hours.

IMMINENT ATTACK INDICATORS

- Suspicious persons in crowded areas wearing unusually bulky clothing that might conceal explosives.
- Unexpected or unfamiliar delivery trucks arriving at the facility.
- Unattended packages (e.g., backpacks, briefcases, boxes) or suspicious packages and/or letters received by mail.
- Recent damage (e.g., significant holes or cuts) to perimeter fence or gate, perimeter lighting, or other security device.

WHERE IS THIS TRENDING?

Emergency Action Plan/Policy for active shooter situations
- Security cameras
- Security entrances
- Access to facilities (during and after hours)
- Anti-bullying and training policies
- Training to recognize/respond to anger, confusion, frustration
- Mechanism to report such behaviors
- Better HR screening
- Counseling and training in the workplace

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN ELEMENTS

- Define Roles and Responsibilities
- Notification Procedures
- Facility and Site Analysis
- Evacuation, Lockdown, Shelter in Place
- Communication (During, After and Before)
- Aftercare-Recovery
- Training and Education
- Recordkeeping and Evaluation of Program

RESOURCES

Support for your organization

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency works with public sector, private sector, and government partners to share information, build greater trust, and lead the national effort to protect and enhance the resilience of the nation’s physical and cyber infrastructure.

Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) are field-deployed personnel who serve as state, local, tribal, and territorial and private sector link to DHS CISA security and protection resources.

PSA Mission Areas include:
- Surveys and assessments, outreach activities, special event support, incident response, bombing prevention, and awareness.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH CISA

CISA ASSIST VISITS establish and enhance DHS CISA’s relationship with your house of worship. During an Assist Visit, PSAs focus on coordination, outreach training and education. Visits are often followed by security surveys using the Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE) Tool, Infrastructure Survey Tool, or delivery of other CISA services.

The Infrastructure Visualization Platform is a data collection and presentation medium supporting critical infrastructure security, special event planning, and response operations.

Exercise Support options in planning, development and execution include seminars, workshops, table-tops, and full-scale exercises.

Download the Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places Resources Guide at dhs.gov

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