**Security Breach/Threats**

**Intruder/Active Shooter Emergency Action Plan**

**There are at 2 primary schools of thought regarding how to respond to an active shooter.**

1. **Homeland Security offers one approach- Run.Hide.Fight.**

**https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active-shooter-how-to-respond-2017-508.pdf**

**2. A.L.E.R.R.T. (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training)- which offers a slightly different approach called C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to Active Shoot Events) which utilizes - Avoid. Deny. Defend.**

[**https://alerrt.org**](https://alerrt.org) **(Part of Texas State University)**

**Before you decide which one to adopt you need to do some research to see which one you can realistically implement. ALERRT requires more training as it can only be taught by a certified instructor.**

**Any Emergency Action Plan cannot cover every possible situation that might occur. Nevertheless, they are tools that can reduce the number of injuries or death if adopted, training instituted, and procedures followed when a situation develops.**

It must be stressed that if you have had contact with ANY INDIVIDUALS who display the following tendencies, that you should contact law enforcement, and notify leaders in your organization:

* Threatens harm or talks about killing others.
* Constantly starts or participates in fights.
* Loses temper and self-control easily.
* Swears or uses vulgar language most of the time.
* Possesses or draws artwork that depicts graphic images of death or violence.
* Frequently initiates domestic violence.
* Becomes frustrated easily and converts frustration into uncontrollable physical violence.

**Firearms Policy**

**Effective January 1, 2016, concealed handgun license holders are allowed to openly carry handguns into houses of worship. Although “concealed carry” has been Texas law for 20 years, visible handguns may alarm parishioners and prompt conversation. Under Texas law, congregations wishing to prevent concealed or openly carried weapons must ensure an individual has “received notice” that entry with a handgun is forbidden.**

**According to the law, “notice” must be provided orally, on a written card, or by means of a posted sign. Provision of oral notice or a written card requires confrontation, and for this reason is not recommended. Posting of appropriate signage minimizes risks to staff and greeters, and enables immediate enforcement of the law by police. If a person disregards properly posted signage, it is appropriate to call the police immediately.**

**To be legally enforceable, signage must adhere exactly to specifications prescribed by the Texas Penal Code:**

**If a congregation wishes to prohibit “open carry,” the signage needs to meet the requirements of Section 30.07 of the Penal Code.**

**If a congregation wishes to prohibit “concealed carry,” the signage needs to meet the requirements of Section 30.06 of the Penal Code.**

**According to legal experts, the word “identical” in §30.06(c)(3) and §30.07(c)(3) renders old §30.06 signs unenforceable; requires those wishing to prohibit both open and concealed handguns to post both signs; and prevents consolidation into one sign.**

**Legally enforceable signage reviewed by prosecutors is available for purchase at http://www.texasimpact.org/gunsigns.**

**To ensure that notice is “received,” legal experts recommend that signage be posted conspicuously at each entrance to the building that is open to the public. Congregations are encouraged to use this opportunity to examine their security practices and to identify which of their doors should be public entrances and which doors should remain locked from the outside. Often local law enforcement will help congregations to conduct safety assessments and develop preparedness plans.**

**Questions often arise as to whether posting notice creates a “gun-free zone.” The trespass by license holder laws apply only to the general public who are license holders. Therefore, posting notice does not apply to trained professionals such as peace officers (on or off-duty) or contracted private security.**

**Under current law, houses of worship cannot prevent open or concealed carry on portions of their properties that are not buildings—such as parking lots, playgrounds, or sidewalks. However, congregations may still have individuals removed from any private property under the general trespass statute found in Section 30.05 of the Penal Code for a reason unrelated to the handgun license. In such an instance, work closely with your local law enforcement.**

**Bomb Threat Checklist**

Fill this out to capture your thoughts when a bomb threat is received by telephone. Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Time Caller Hung Up: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number where Call Received: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ASK THE CALLER:

•  Where is the bomb located? (Room, etc.)

•  When will it go off?

•  What does it look like?

•  What kind of bomb is it?

•  What will make it explode?

•  Did you place the bomb?

•  Why?

•  What is your name?

EXACT WORDS OF THREAT:

INFORMATION ABOUT CALLER:

• Where is the caller located? (Background and level of noise)

•  Estimated age:

•  Is the voice familiar? If so, who does it sound like?

Other points:

CALLER’S VOICE:

🞏Angry
🞏Accent

🞏Calm
🞏Clearing throat 🞏Coughing
🞏Cracking voice 🞏Crying
🞏Deep
🞏Deep breathing 🞏Disguised
🞏Distinct
🞏Excited
🞏**Female**🞏Laughter
🞏Lisp
🞏Loud
🞏**Male**🞏Nasal
🞏Normal
🞏Ragged
🞏Rapid
🞏Raspy
🞏Slow
🞏Slurred
🞏Soft
🞏Stutter

🞏Local
🞏Long distance 🞏Threat Language 🞏Incoherent

🞏Message read 🞏Taped
🞏Irrational
🞏Profane

🞏Well-spoken

BACKGROUND SOUNDS:

🞏Animal Noises

🞏House Noises

🞏Kitchen Noises

🞏Street Noises

🞏Booth

🞏PA System
🞏Conversation
🞏Music
🞏Motor
🞏Clear
🞏Static
🞏Office machinery

🞏Factory machinery

Source: <http://emilms.fema.gov/is906/assets/ocso-bomb_threat_samepage-brochure.pdf>