



## March 2009 LDR-SEPA Task Force Update



### Church Violence

In light of the rash of recent shootings, including at First Baptist Church of Maryville, Illinois, here are some points from GuideOne Insurance for making your church staff and members less vulnerable:

- Never allow staff to work alone. Always ensure that there are at least two employees present at all times.
- Establish an internal distress code that will alert others in the office to your need for assistance. For example, if church office workers typically address each other by first name, your distress code may be that addressing a colleague by last name (i.e., "Mr. Smith") will signal a distress situation.
- Keep all church doors locked except when in use and then limit access points as much as possible.
- Consider installation of a "panic button" for frontline workers such as receptionists.
- Ensure that exterior lighting is adequate in all areas, especially parking lots and walkways. Ask your local law enforcement for assistance with a lighting audit.
- Always park your car in a well-lit area that is not obstructed by shrubbery, dumpsters, trucks, or vans.
- Ensure that all staff know of and understand the church's security plan.
- Know where all telephones are located.
- Prepare for the worst case scenario.

For more information, visit

<https://www.guideone.com/SafetyResources/Churches/Downloads/violence.pdf>

### VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Events at Lutheran Churches

**Basic VOAD Disaster Training**, April 4, 2009 9a.m. - noon, St. James Lutheran Church,  
5185 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124

This class covers Introduction to Disasters, Fire Safety, Flood Safety, Disaster Preparedness, Building an Emergency Kit, Introduction to Mass Care and Shelter Operations and makes you eligible for further free trainings for CPR, First Aid, AED, Sheltering in Your Community as well as additional trainings, drills, and volunteer opportunities.

### CPR/AED Training for VOAD Trained Volunteers

March 28, 2009, 9 a.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church, Levittown  
April 4, 2009 12:30 pm - 5 pm, St. James Lutheran Church, Philadelphia

Please contact Christie Eastburn at SEPA VOAD, 215-299-4218 or [eastbuc@redcross-philly.org](mailto:eastbuc@redcross-philly.org) if you are interested in information on either of these events.