

Anderson First Baptist Church Safety Ministry

Safety Ministry Mission: As a team we are responsible to educate, train, and stay informed about church risk management. Our goal is to integrate safety and security into the daily life of our members without compromising our ministry and to best conduct our affairs in a way that continues to glorify God and further His Kingdom.

Welcome to the Safety Ministry! Members can be easily identified by their bright yellow wristbands. If you have a question, safety concern, or are willing to serve, see any member to get started. The SM is comprised of Medical, Technical, Military, Law Enforcement, Engineering, Child Safety, Food Safety, and a variety of backgrounds to serve our church members and guests. Safety is an everyday thing we should be doing whether at church, home, work, or doing our daily activities. We hopefully pray we will never encounter a crisis to have to put what we learn into action. But we want you to keep in mind the following steps when faced with evacuation during any of these events.

Calling 911: If an emergency arises, do not hesitate to call 911. Try to remain calm and have as much information as you can for the operator. Do not hang up until the operator or an emergency responder tells you to, you may be the only source of information at the time.

Tornado:

A **“tornado watch”** status indicates that weather conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. The “watch areas” are usually large geographic areas, covering many counties or even states that could be affected by severe weather conditions including tornadoes. A

“tornado warning” is an alert issued by the National Weather Service after a tornado has been detected by radar or sighted by weather watchers or by the public. The National Weather Service provides the approximate time of detection, the location of the storm and the direction of movement. A tornado can move from 25 to 40 miles per hour so prompt emergency action must be taken.

When a tornado warning is announced, all Safety Stewards will begin to move people into the designated safe areas, (bathrooms, hallways, keep away from windows and outside walls if possible). Get with your family and make sure all are accounted for. Do not go into the gym, do not be near a window, do not panic. Wait until the all clear has been given and begin to assist people in moving to other areas.

In the event the church is breached by a tornado or weather event, assess the damage; assist the injured, call EMS if needed.

Fire:

Secure your family and remain calm. Exit the building thru the nearest exit and assemble on the grass in front of the Sanctuary. If directed, cross the highway towards the high school. Await further instructions. Please do not run to your vehicle and attempt to leave, this may hinder the first responders and cause a delay in containing the crisis. **ABSOLUTELY NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED BACK IN UNTIL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS HAVE DEEMED IT SAFE TO DO SO!** We do not want to have to divert emergency responders to conduct a rescue that is unnecessary and may cause serious injury to you or others.

Earthquake:

Earthquake - Indoors

Duck or drop down to the floor. Take cover under a door frame, sturdy desk, table or other furniture. Hold on to it and be prepared to move with it. Stay where you are until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move. Stay clear of windows, fireplaces, woodstoves, heavy furniture or appliances or which may fall over. Stay inside to avoid being injured by falling glass or building parts. If you are in a crowded area, take cover where you are. Stay calm and encourage others to do likewise.

Earthquake - Outdoors

If you are outdoors, get into the open, away from buildings and power lines. Stay low to the ground and do not try to stand until the ground stops shaking. Remain outdoors. Do not reenter houses or building as their stability may have been compromised during the quake.

Security:

Security should not be the main focus of any church. But providing adequate security helps create an environment for making disciples, one where people don't fear violence and where memories of violence don't hinder them from attending church.

During any emergency situation people may become overwhelmed and stressed. They may become combative and violent. Our team's responsibility is to **De-escalate** any situation that may arise. Also, even though we are a church, temptation is always present and we must be vigilant and keep a secure and safe environment for our members and guests. Do not hesitate to call 911 if you feel there is an immediate threat to yourself or others. Try to give the 911 operator as much detail and description as possible as the offender may leave but still be a threat elsewhere.

The safety and behavior of each child is the responsibility of his/her parent or guardian unless the child is participating in an organized function such as Sunday School or child care.

If your family is involved in any court order such as a divorce, custody, restraining order, or any other court mandated order, please advise and provide a copy of this order to the church office so that the church will be able to understand who has the authority over your children and we can provide a safe haven for your family if necessary.

A final word, God has promised to take care of us but does not expect us to lay back and not take part in our own life. We should be prepared for any crisis, take charge and lead our families, be the Watchman so that we may bring others to Him until the time that he returns. There is much information available to be able to be prepared, we encourage you to research that and do as God leads you. A great place to start is the Ready and also the Fema websites. There are also many other weather related websites that can assist you.

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

<http://mcdonaldcountyema.org/>

<http://www.weather.gov/>

Psalms 91:5 You will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by the day, 6: the plague that stalks in darkness, or the pestilence that ravages at noon.

