



## The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Department of Congregational Development

# CRASE Conversation Guide

CRASE (Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events) training and preparedness is important. The resources provided give a background, context, and a high-level guide for action steps. Due to contextual differences, each location should have its own safety plan. The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas' Department of Congregational Development suggest you go through this conversation guide with the leadership in your congregation and begin to create your own congregational safety plan.

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### Walkthrough Campus/Sanctuary

Walk your church grounds and worship space to identify how visitors arrive on your campus, how congregants can exit in an active shooter situation (run), where individuals can find places to go if exiting is not an option (hide), and what weapons may be available in case running and hiding are not options (fight). In addition, identify where emergency communication devices are located.

**ACTION:** Take notes during your walkthrough. Document concerns which need to be addressed.

### Create Safety Team

Identify members of your congregation who are current or retired law enforcement or military. Invite them to be the Safety Team which will review safety procedures, establish a relationship with local law enforcement, and are present on Sunday mornings.

**ACTION:** Identify and invite individuals who could serve on the Safety Team.

### Train Staff/Volunteers

Ensure everyone is warm, open, and hospitable to all who arrive on your church grounds. Eye contact and a warm welcome shows Jesus' love to someone who is hurting.

**ACTION:** Identify and implement a greeting process.

### Train Your Children & Youth Caregivers

Train staff/volunteers for the needs of children and youth in regards to special care during any emergency.

**ACTION:** Make sure the child/youth check-in/drop-off procedure includes parent sign-in/out and a cell phone number each time they drop off a child. Ensure teams are trained and have practiced a plan using different evacuation exits.

### Inform Your Congregation

Ask your congregation to participate in being aware of and discuss unusual situations, individuals needing help, or other concerns. Help everyone know the emergency exits and plan for an emergency.

**ACTION:** Communicate emergency exits and offer the ability to view/discuss the *Run, Hide, Fight* video.

### Continue the Conversation

Read the Diocesan policy regarding open carry of fire arms.

Reach out to your local law enforcement and arrange a site visit and Q&A session directly with them.

Use the basecamp portal to share ideas and ask questions.

Upload your congregation's final document into shared files section of CRASE Training Basecamp portal.