

SECURITY

Thefts, burglaries and vandalism can be reduced or eliminated with good security measures in place. Three important areas to review are:

- ◆ Lighting
- ◆ Door and window locks
- ◆ Security alarm system

Good lighting allows visitors to safely access your facilities and grounds, and helps deter potential vandalism and break-ins. Exterior lights should be on timers or attached to a photocell.

Strong locks, which appropriately latch, also provide break-in deterrence. A key-control policy and restricted access to keys is recommended. All door locks can also be appropriately keyed to restrict staff and volunteer access. Master keys should be stamped "Do not copy".

A security alarm system with motion detectors or door and window contacts is highly recommended as they are very effective when installed and utilized. Buildings should be well marked that a system is in place.

A policy needs to be in place to have security access codes immediately changed whenever an employee/staff member leaves or no longer provides service to your operations.

If a church is left unlocked and unattended, it is recommended to secure access beyond the main worship area. Valuable items and equipment should also be secured. An additional security measure is to consult with your local police department for additional guidance and recommendations.

Prior to locking up your facilities, we recommend completing a walk-through inspection to ensure all safety/security related concerns are in order.