

Are you prepared for the Unthinkable?

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By **Arthur F. Blinci**, VP Chief Risk Management Officer at Adventist Risk Management®, Inc.



On August 5, 2012 the unthinkable happened at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin as a gunman killed six parishioners. On December 14th, twenty innocent school children and six adults were senselessly gunned down at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. These tragic events sadly remind us that our churches and schools must be prepared for the unthinkable at all times.

Vice President Joe Biden announced on June 18, 2013 the release of three new safety guidelines prepared by various United States governmental agencies to help churches and schools prepare for all kinds of emergencies.

"The faith leaders are worried that their congregations are at risk. They want to know what they should be thinking about when someone stands up in the middle of the congregation and decides to do something similar as we saw in Newtown."

Vice President Joe Biden
Speaking about the importance of these guidelines

To read more about the Vice President's announcement see:
[Vice President Announcement - Link](#)

There are three specific guidelines available

- Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship
- Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans
- Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Plans for Institutions of Higher Education

Each of these Federal publications provides useful guidelines that can be implemented at local churches, schools, and institutional facilities. They help you assess a wide range of emergency situations that can occur and assist your leaders in formulating their action plans. Adventist Risk Management (ARM) would encourage all denominational organizations to carefully review these and share them with your local church and school leaders.

To download copies of these documents simply click on the link above. For additional loss prevention resources, please visit the ARM website at www.Adventistrisk.org/prevention.aspx. Remember, disasters can happen at any time. We must be prepared to respond swiftly and appropriately at all times.



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