



Protecting Houses of Worship Against Active Shooters

Five Key Technologies and How They Can Work Together

It's not your imagination. Active shooter incidents are on the rise. According to FBI data, the U.S. saw nearly six times as many active shooter incidents between 2014 and 2015 as there were between 2000 and 2001.¹ And houses of worship have not been spared.

In June 2015, a 23-year-old gunman shot and killed nine people at a South Carolina church after first praying with them.² And in November 2017, 26 worshippers were killed and 20 injured when a 26-year-old gunman opened fire inside a Texas church—the fifth deadliest mass shooting in the United States.³

The risks are tangible, but easy answers are not. While many houses of worship pride themselves on opening their doors to all, the growing number of active shooter events have forced a rethinking of security measures. Fortunately, there are many things you can do to help prevent and mitigate the impact of an active shooter incident – and ways you can enhance the speed and effectiveness of response if the worst-case scenario should occur.

It begins with a Violence Prevention Plan. The development and implementation of a formalized plan for preventing and responding to violence can help you get ahead of the problem by identifying and addressing hazards, training staff, and ensuring the correct procedures are in place.

The next essential step is to deploy specific security technologies that can support your plan. Let's take a closer look at some of these technologies and the ways they can work together to help you better respond to an active shooter incident.

1

Access Control: Limiting access and movement to authorized persons

One of the best ways to help prevent an active shooter incident is to maintain control over building access. An access control system helps ensure that only authorized people can enter a facility (or restricted areas within it) and that visitors check in, check out, and provide identification. While it may not be feasible to restrict external access or request identification if you have an open-door policy for worshippers, consider restricting access to internal areas such as offices, meeting rooms, and so forth.

An access control system can also be effective during an active shooter incident. When a shooter can only

1. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/active-shooter-incidents-continue-rise-fbi-data-shows/story?id=39876178>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/19/us/charleston-church-shooting.html>
3. <https://www.wsls.com/inside-edition/texas-church-massacre-is-fifth-deadliest-shooting-in-americas-history>

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Video surveillance: vigilance around the clock

Situational awareness plays an essential role in responding to any emergency. You need to know where people are and what's happening before you can mount the appropriate response.

The best way to maintain situational awareness and quickly identify threats is by deploying an integrated video surveillance system. It enables you to not only observe activity throughout your house of worship in real-time, but also to record activity for forensic purposes and later review.

With cameras installed strategically throughout your facility, you gain the power to quickly spot suspicious activity, assess threats in real time, and respond with confidence.

In an active shooter situation, video surveillance enables you to identify the location of the shooter and track the shooter's movements. This can also help staff to respond by remotely locking access doors and communicating instructions to building occupants in order to keep them out of danger.



Your video surveillance system can also be designed to work as part of a security solution federated with local public safety authorities to help ensure a coordinated response in the event of an emergency. In a federated solution, building staff and public safety authorities can share critical video and specific camera views – both within the facility and across the city – as if they were a single, virtual system, thereby enabling them to launch a coordinated response.

enter a house of worship from a single entrance, staff who are trained for emergency situations and first responders can be better positioned to identify and locate that person quickly and mount an effective response.

In addition, an access control system can help prevent an armed intruder who gains entrance access from venturing beyond the immediate area to inflict harm. Every second counts in an active shooter event, so delaying the assailant by just a short amount of time can significantly help to contain the impact.

For added protection, you can integrate your access control system with other security systems and lighting so that door locks can be automatically triggered in the event of an active shooter incident. Doing so could buy valuable seconds in which to alert building occupants to gunshot activity, prevent them from wandering into danger and guide them to safety.

While there are certain security challenges and opportunities that most houses of worship have in common, every facility also presents a unique set of criteria. Multiple levels of badge credentials and authentication are available to suit your needs, along with integration opportunities that enhance security coverage. A professional risk assessment from Johnson Controls can help you determine what type and level of access control system is best for your facility.

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A federated solution also enables the Command and Control Center to use the DAS public safety frequency, which ensures that communication devices continue to transmit in hard-to-reach locations such as stairwells, basements, and thick-walled or shielded areas.

With the visual information that video surveillance provides, law enforcement can identify the shooter's location, and better direct rescue and medical personnel should they be needed.

Even in non-emergency situations, video surveillance supports your security strategy by establishing a baseline for day-to-day activities to better identify vulnerabilities. Ongoing technology development has made video easier to implement and manage than ever before. With a hosted video solution, footage from video cameras is uploaded to the cloud for storage and retrieval, eliminating the need for onsite storage solutions and maintenance.

In addition, comprehensive video management solutions enable you to record, monitor, review, and analyze multiple network video recorders across multiple locations. Smart streaming technology delivers high-quality video to operators without latency and smart search capability to find incidents quickly.

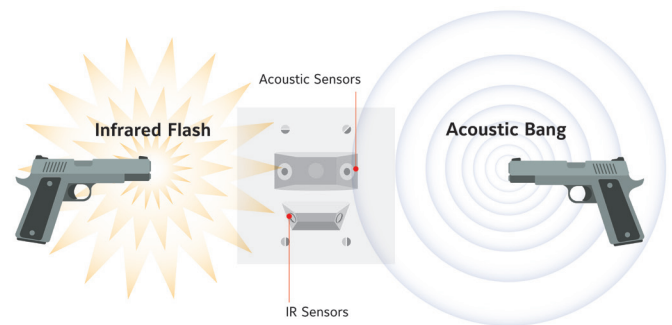
3

Gunshot detection: detect an active shooter faster for a better response

Most active shooter incidents last five minutes or less⁴. That means the event is often over before emergency responders can arrive. To mitigate the impact of an active shooter incident, it's critical to confirm as quickly as possible that an incident is taking place and rapidly launch the appropriate response. The faster the response, the better the outcome.

That's the purpose of a gunshot detection system. These systems help identify and locate gunshots almost instantly after they are fired. They work to enhance the speed and effectiveness of response by connecting gunshot detection with notification, quickly alerting staff to gunshot activity and triggering notifications to building occupants. Systems can also alert law enforcement outside of your facility that an active shooter event is in progress, speeding the response at all levels.

Among gunshot detection systems, the Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System is one of the most advanced technologies available. While many shot detection systems rely solely on acoustic feedback to confirm gunfire, Guardian sensors also look for an infrared flash. This dual-factor authentication improves accuracy and helps to reduce false alerts.



Widely installed in real-world environments nationwide, the Guardian System is easily integrated into your existing infrastructure and is compatible with leading-edge security systems such as access control, alarm panels, video surveillance, mass notification, mobile application technologies, and other notification pathways.

4. <https://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2018/01/22/282605.htm>

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Mass notification: informing and guiding people with clarity

In the panic and chaos of an emergency, clear, consistent communication of instructions and emergency messages is vital to protecting the safety of

building occupants. Mass Notification Systems (MNS) enable communication with large groups across multiple sites that may be impacted by an active shooter incident.

With an MNS, you can alert worshippers and staff to critical events, simultaneously notifying people via text, automated voice dialing, desktop alerts, and indoor and outdoor speakers. All components work together to help ensure that everyone gets the information they need to respond to danger and minimize its impact:

- **Loudspeakers** transmit audio messages (live or prerecorded) to occupants in hallways and open spaces.
- **Wireless duress buttons** make it easy for staff to quickly notify law enforcement without needing to call 911. Duress buttons can be integrated with local alarm systems, access control and district-wide systems to broadcast a unique warning throughout a facility or campus.
- **Electronic messaging displays** provide high-visibility text messages so that hearing impaired building occupants and people in noisy environments can receive critical messages.
- **Telephone messaging** sends alerts to building occupants via voice messages and SMS text messages.

All outgoing messages can be broadcast quickly from a simple, web-based interface.

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Again, integration is key. For example, you can preprogram messages so that a gunshot detection system promptly triggers an alert to building occupants via the mass notification system, informing all to a shooting and its location.

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Integration: bringing it all together to respond better

Individual technologies should be considered as part of an evaluation process that addresses the holistic technology needs and desired outcomes for a

facility or campus. Early collaboration among building owners, architects, engineers and construction teams can lead to the construction of a smart building that meets energy, technology, security and operational objectives.

For example, when a gunshot detection system is integrated with access control, lighting, mass notification and video management, the process of alerting law enforcement, providing instructions to building occupants, and triggering lockdown and evacuation procedures can be greatly accelerated. This integration can help cut emergency response time from a matter of minutes to a matter of seconds.

As the industry's leading systems integrator, Johnson Controls can bring all the elements together to help make your workplace safer and better protected.

Taking the next step

As you plan and implement your active shooter strategy, the most important next step is to review your current security environment and capabilities, identify risks and opportunities for improvements, and evaluate solutions to address those risks and opportunities. No security partner is better equipped to help you do that than Johnson Controls. Please contact us at **800-701-8449** to get the conversation started. To learn more about Johnson Controls Active Shooter solutions, visit www.tycois/activeshooter.

