

Elderton Presbyterian Church

Life Safety Committee: Emergency Operational Plan (EOP)



Definitions:

“The church” consists of those whom the Lord has called out of the world into union and fellowship with Christ and into communion with each other.

“Butterfly Hill” is a Christian-based academic preschool consisting of qualified teachers and registered children ages 2-5.

“Security team” consists of volunteers, appointed by the safety committee, to add extra surveillance before and during service.

“Safety Committee” is the body of members committed to the safety and well-being of the congregation and Butterfly Hill.

“Active shooter” person entering the premises with the means to harm

Safety Philosophy

The Elderton Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a safe place for all worshippers to attend church. Due to the present environment we face, we have adopted a plan to address active shooters, natural disasters, or health emergencies.

Safety Committee Responsibilities

- Throughout church service and Butterfly Hill operation, the building will be monitored by outside video surveillance, alarms, and door locking systems.
- Create a volunteer security team who will add extra surveillance before, and during service using the surveillance apps
- Run quarterly drills with review of routines and procedures. Drills will be announced and local authorities (911) will be notified prior.
- Lock main entrances
- Approach new faces and introduce yourself. Make your presence known.

Security Team responsibilities

- Members will sign volunteer agreement yearly
- Safety Committee will instruct the security team members about their responsibilities and hold routine meetings
- Check in the office and get your security badge. Wear the badge so others can identify the weekly security volunteer.
- Provide identification to law enforcement
- Walk the premises to look for suspicious activity and objects prior to the start of church service. Document findings and observations on the safety team checklist and turn into the designated folder in the church office. Cases of vandalism and criminal activity need to be addressed immediately, call 911. Trust your instincts and call 911.
- Monitor the sidewalks and parking lot during service by using the surveillance camera app
- The scheduled member responsible for the week will lock building doors at appropriate times, as defined in the door locking procedures.
- If you cannot make your scheduled week, make sure to contact and switch with another team member.

Door-locking procedures for Worship services

For the safety of our worshipers, the Elderton Presbyterian Church will lock all doors* to the church at the beginning of service. (all exit/entrance doors are covered by camera surveillance.)

*All doors have crash bars which allows members to exit freely. Pay close attention to the side door, The door must be relocked, from the outside, and release the crash bar inside.

*If first responders believe we are in crisis, they are permitted to use any means to enter the building.

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE PLAN

In the event an active shooter enters a building. Examine the situation and consider the following. Recognize your alternative options

RUN (Get Out)

If there is an escape path, worshipers will attempt to run.

HIDE

If running is not possible, worshipers are encouraged to find a place to hide. While hiding, you can use the emergency security bars, mounted by the door, to wedge the door shut.

FIGHT (Take Out or Resist)

If willing and able to fight, use any means you deem necessary to protect yourself.

Action words to be used by the Pastor

“Saints there is an active shooter” - means to use the active shooter response plan

“Saints, we are going to stay in place” - means a safety concern is in the immediate area and we ask that they will safely remain inside.

For anyone who is forcefully asking for the pastor to be called

Congregation member would use the alert phrase “be sure to ring the bell when you get here to gain access” Pastor would respond by calling 911

—Always be cautious of unwanted behavior. —