

# CHURCH PROPERTY SECURITY

## Building security

The impact of a theft or break-in can be far reaching. Beyond the damage or property loss, it is also a drain on the church's resources and its mission to the community. On a personal level it can also impact your sense of safety with a feeling of violation.

Depending on the local church's budget a number of security measures can be put into place, below are some suggestions:

- Sufficient lighting inside and outside can act as a deterrent to unlawful activities.
- Keep outdoor shrubs and trees trimmed to avoid providing places where an individual could conceal themselves.
- Keep the site well maintained and neatly presented sends a message that the church cares for its property and its people. When a site is neglected those outsiders are less likely to care about it too which can make the site vulnerable.
- Keep internal doors locked to reduce the loss in the event of an intrusion.
- CCTV with careful planning is both a deterrent to intruders and can provide valuable evidence in many types of loss events.
- A monitored alarm system including access control cards (instead of keys) can provide security on many fronts.

## 4 ways to target harden

Making a practice of safety and security, taking time to understand WHS guidelines within the context of the local church setting and putting knowledge into practice will all work toward to protecting the safety and security of the church and its members.

**Here are 4 ways to target harden your site and reduce vulnerability:**



**Budget** Set aside budget for security. Could the church afford an alarm system? Talk to RMS about risk and safety co-funding.



**Lighting** Ensure the church has good lighting to deter intruders and vandals.



**Maintenance** Coordinate regular working bees to keep the site well-maintained and neatly presented.



**Culture** Make the practice of safety and security part of the local church's culture and mindset.

## READY TO HELP

Risk Management Service is a dedicated service department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

[rms.org.au](http://rms.org.au)

