

Resources on Human Caused Disasters

In response to numerous requests for training materials to assist churches in planning and responding to an active shooter situation and other forms of human caused disasters, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is providing this Resource Guide.

Planning & Training

Free Online Courses:

- **FEMA: Independent Study 360 - Planning for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education and Houses of Worship.** Provides leading practices and resources for preparing for and responding to mass casualty incidents. Also includes a Quick Reference Guide on Violence in Houses of Worship.
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-360>
- **FEMA: Independent Study 907 - Active Shooter - What You Can Do.** Provides non-law enforcement individuals with recommended actions should they be confronted with an active shooter situation.
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907>
- **DHS Webpage: Active Shooter: How to Respond.** Provides fact sheets for private citizens, HR professionals, Active Shooter Workshop participants and First Responders. Also provides links to videos on Active Shooter planning.
<https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>
- **Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship Security Guide:** A DHS Guidebook for both thinking about the security of Houses of Worship and achieving a security plan best suited to the unique circumstances of every community.
<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/mitigating-attacks-houses-worship-security-guide>
- **Armed Intruder Best Practices Video:** Church Mutual Insurance partnered with Alice Training Institute, experts in active shooter civilian response, to create a Best Practices Video and Armed Intruder Resources Kit.
<https://www.churchmutual.com/6421/Armed-Intruder>
- **Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment:** A CISA-developed baseline security self-assessment tool designed for persons with little to no security experience. <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/houses-worship-security-self-assessment>

Responding to Human Caused Disasters

- **Worship Resources After Public Violence.** This collection of prayers, litanies, worship and vesper service outlines, strategies for children’s messages, etc. can be found on the PDA homepage at:
<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hcd/>
- **“Recovering from Un-Natural Disasters: A Guide for Pastors and Congregations after Violence and Trauma.”** Written by Laurie Kraus, David Holyan and Bruce Wismer, three pastors who have experienced human-caused trauma in their own congregations and communities and, as members of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s National Response Team, have served as disaster responders and Emotional and Spiritual Care counselors to numerous other faith-based groups. Available for online purchase at:
<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664262155/recovering-from-unnatural-disasters.aspx>
- **“Ministry after Communal Trauma.”** An article based on **“Recovering from Un-Natural Disasters”** appeared in the March 21, 2017 issue of *The Christian Century*. Available to subscribers at:
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/ministry-after-communal-trauma>
- **“Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence.”** A documentary that frames gun violence as a “disaster” and “public health” issue. All those scarred by gun violence ask, “Why did this happen to us?” *Trigger* looks at those experiences and turns to the bigger question, “What can we do to prevent gun violence?” (51 minutes) Study and Action Guide also available at:
<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/story-productions/#trigger>
- **“Tapestry: Reweaving the Fabric of Community After Public Violence.”** A documentary that examines the effects of public violence events in congregations and communities. Framed through the lens of PDA National Response Team members who have responded to public violence events and supported communities of faith and their leaders through trauma and the healing process. (21 minutes) Video and downloadable study guide available at:
<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-tapestry/>
- **The Trauma Pastoral Care Series (Training Videos).** A series of 15 videos intended for pastors caring for those experiencing trauma, or experiencing trauma themselves. Emphasis on human-caused disasters.
<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/Trauma-Pastoral-Care-Series/>