



# FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY Self-Assessment User Guide



DEFEND TODAY,  
SECURE TOMORROW

## INTRODUCTION

This user guide provides a step-by-step sequence for navigating the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Houses of Worship (HOW) security self-assessment.<sup>1</sup>

The assessment, when completed, will provide an easy to follow road map for implementing suggested voluntary options for consideration. These options are based on current best practices designed to improve facility security and preparedness:



Security and  
Safety/Emergency  
Management



Perimeter Security/  
Delineation



Parking and  
Barriers



Access Control/  
Entry Control



Closed-circuit  
Video (CCV)/  
Video Surveillance  
Systems (VSS)

## ASSESSMENT BASICS

**Each question has either three or five answers.**

The answers and options for consideration are arranged from the lowest level of security that offers a very low level of protection (red) to a very high level of security that provides a greatly enhanced level of protection (green). None of this infers priority of actions to implement.

**For each relevant question, identify the answer that most accurately represents your facility.**

Directly below the applicable answer is a corresponding option for consideration. It may be helpful to copy and paste the applicable option for consideration into a separate document or spreadsheet.

## USE OF THE RESULTS

The tables in the self-assessment are designed to show a range of security and protection, from the lowest level of security that offers minimal protection (red) to a very high level of security that provides a greatly enhanced level of protection (green). None of these designations is meant to infer priority of actions to implement.

**Each facility will be able to use the results of this self-assessment to evaluate the most impactful, cost effective options to improve their overall risk profile.**

<sup>1</sup> [cisa.gov/publication/houses-worship-security-self-assessment](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/houses-worship-security-self-assessment)

## USING THE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Before starting, have a self-assessment available to allow ease of use when moving through the question sets. Afterwards, use the methodology below to measure your current security level and identify corresponding actions for improvement.

### STEP 1

Use a step-by-step process to go through each question and identify your current posture.

### STEP 2

After identifying your current posture, drop down to the corresponding option for consideration.

*Consider the elements on the sliding scale to modify your security or preparedness level today or in the future.*

### STEP 3

Review and use the provided background, references for the self-assessment question, and additional resources to build and improve your security and lower your risk.

*Example: You have identified the lack of a security plan. Gauge the level that you would like to achieve, and then use the resources referenced in the question to build a security plan.*

## THE SELF-ASSESSMENT IN ACTION

Question	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
1. Does the house of worship have a security manager or security committee to make security management decisions?	The house of worship does not have a security manager or committee.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee, but security management activities are sporadic.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled, but not coordinated with other committees, departments, or groups (e.g., special events planning, childcare).	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled and coordinated with other committees, departments, and groups, but additional personnel are needed to support the facility's security mission.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled and coordinated with other committees, departments, and groups, and staffing levels fully support the facility's security mission.
Option for Consideration	Designate an individual as a security manager or a group of individuals as a security committee, and ensure that person or group is responsible for developing, implementing, and coordinating all security-related activities. If the manager or committee members have no security or law enforcement background, make sure they reach out to local law enforcement to become acquainted. Provide security management training and/or access to training materials and resources.	Schedule regular meetings to review security procedures and incidents.	Coordinate safety and security planning with other committees, departments, and groups.	Hire or appoint additional personnel to support the facility's security mission.	Regularly assess the facility's security management program. Conduct security surveys, risk assessments, and threat assessments of the facility and neighboring areas. Implement best practices based on collaborative relationships and new or updated resources.

*Diagram annotations:*

- A box labeled "Your self-identified level of security" is positioned above the "Low" column of the first row.
- A box labeled "Your starting point for improving security" is positioned below the "Low" column of the second row.
- A blue arrow labeled "Continual Improvement Approach" points from the "Low" column of the second row to the "High" column of the second row.

### Easy-to-use background, references, and resources for each question

- **Background:** Security or safety managers (or volunteer security or safety personnel) are responsible for the effective implementation of security/safety policies, programs, directives, and training within their house of worship. Security or safety committees (also known as volunteer security teams or volunteer safety teams or departments) are a group of people working together to fulfill this same purpose. They may include religious leaders, congregants, security professionals, and first responders.
- **References:** (1) ASIS Houses of Worship Committee, *Recommended Best Practices for Securing Houses of Worship Around the World*, 2017, accessed January 13, 2020, [asisonline.org/globalassets/get-involved/councils/documents/best-practices-securing-houses-of-worship.pdf](https://www.asisonline.org/globalassets/get-involved/councils/documents/best-practices-securing-houses-of-worship.pdf) (2) Interagency Security Committee (ISC), *Facility Security Plan: An Interagency Security Committee Guide*, 1st edition, 2015, accessed January 13, 2020, [cisa.gov/publication/isc-facility-security-plan-guide](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/isc-facility-security-plan-guide).
- **For more information:**
  - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), "Hometown Security," 2020, accessed April 29, 2020, [cisa.gov/hometown-security](https://www.cisa.gov/hometown-security).
  - State of New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, *Role of Security Coordinators*, undated, accessed January 14, 2020, [static1.squarespace.com/static/54d79f88e4b0db3478a04405/t/5a4d52ee53450af96083504f/1515016942789/Role+of+Security+Coordinators.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d79f88e4b0db3478a04405/t/5a4d52ee53450af96083504f/1515016942789/Role+of+Security+Coordinators.pdf).