

House of Worship Safety and Security Symposium

Thursday, September 11, 2025 | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Best Western Premier Harrisburg | 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg

Sign-in begins at 7:30 AM on the day of the event.

A house of worship is meant to be a safe place for people to gather. Over the past ten years we have seen a rise in violent attacks against houses of worship and its congregants. Protecting houses of worship from all hazards, albeit natural or man-made, takes a community effort.

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security is having its annual **House of Worship Safety and Security Symposium** on Thursday, September 11, 2025. This event will be held at the Best Western Premier Harrisburg, located at 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

This symposium is open to religious leaders, first responders, security personnel, and congregants of houses of worship who enhance their safety, security and resilience.

The parking is free, and lunch will be provided.

KEY PRESENTATIONS:

Case Study: Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina

Nathan S. Williams, Former Criminal Chief of the US Attorney's Office, District of South Carolina. Prosecuted the perpetrator for the race-based murder of nine parishioners.

First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, TX: A Case Study on the Link Between Domestic Violence & Mass Attacks

US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)

Bridging the Tree of Life Congregation and Pittsburgh Public Safety

Alan W. Hausman, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety and President of the Tree of Life Congregation

ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

- Threat brief from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Updates: Federal and State Non-Profit Security Grant
- Judicious Use of Force



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