

10 simple ways to make your synagogue safer

Keeping your people safe and secure



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1.

It's time for vigilance, but you can balance your priorities.

Synagogues can't be all one or all the other. They must to both:

- Warm and welcoming
- Safe and secure



2.

Know who is coming into your building

There are many ways to identify “kosher” daveners:

- Regulars
- Invited guests (Aufruf, Bar Mitzvah)
- Drop-ins



3.

תבדיל בין קדש לחול

Create different security postures for different situations:

- Morning
- Evening
- יום טוב/שבת
- ימים נוראים



4.

Make sure your doors and window lock securely?

Keep the people inside safe with good hardware:

- Doors
- Windows
- Lighting
- Locks/buzzer systems
- Alarms
- Panic buttons



5.

Don't allow people to use doors that you can't monitor

People like to do what's convenient...that undermines security

- Choose a door (or doors). People should not be able to walk in without being authorized.
- People don't use the parking lot on יום טוב or שבת. Lock the parking lot doors.
- If people have to walk around to the other side of the building, it's good exercise.
- People *will* try to get around the rules.



6.

Recruit and empower volunteers

- Establish a Security Committee to set and carry out policy;
- Make sure that there is leadership support for security policies and procedures;
- Line up greeters for services;
- Designate liaisons with local law enforcement; and
- Create the expectation that *everyone* is responsible for safety and security.



7.

Teach people to recognize:
**When it *just doesn't*
*look right.***

- You don't have to be a highly-trained security expert to spot a problem.
- Trust your senses, if something looks “wrong” it probably is.



What about down the block and around the corner?

Anything suspicious about the door?

Do the lights work?

What's in the trash can?

8.

Check and double check your premises – inside and out

- If suspicious item is found **do not** touch, tamper with, or move the item.
- Immediately call 911.
- Ensure area is secured & cleared of personnel.
- Appropriate personnel should remain available to assist and inform evacuees, media, staff, and others.

**Report Possible
Terrorist Activity**
Call the New York State
Terrorism Tips Line
1-866-SAFE NYS
(1-866-723-3697)
All calls are toll free and will remain
strictly confidential.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING.**
Call 1-888-NYC-SAFE



9.

Don't keep it to yourself

Report Any Suspicious Activity:

- Who or what you saw;
- When you saw it;
- Where it occurred; and
- Why it's suspicious.

If you think that it's an emergency, ***call 911.***



10.

Maintain an ongoing relationship with your local police.

Relationships don't work if you only use them in emergencies. You should:

- reach out to your local law enforcement leaders;
- take them for a tour of your facilities; and
- make sure that they know about the times of services and special events.



www.jcrcny.org/security
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