

MX Safety Team – 2025 Update

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Cc: dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com; bblackford@mcknightcrossings.org

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 01:21 PM CST

Dear MX Safety Team,

First, I want to express my gratitude for each of you and the role you play in keeping the McKnight church family safe every Sunday. Your efforts may often go unnoticed, but they are important and greatly appreciated by the church leadership.

As we begin the year, I'd like to provide a refresher on our Sunday procedures. I've attached an outline for your reference, but please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Rick Salley if you have any questions or suggestions for improvement.

It has been a while since we last met as a team, and I plan to schedule a brief meeting soon — likely after a Sunday service. I will share the details once a time is set. This will be a great opportunity to review our responsibilities and discuss how to respond to various situations.

Thank you again for your dedication. May we continue to put God first in all that we do.

---- Bret

Bret Blackford

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2025Feb-SafetyTeamMemo.pdf
508.7kB

**McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
Safety and Security Team**



**Procedure for Sunday morning security
February 2025**

This memo outlines our procedure for Sunday Morning safety and security.

I have developed a website showing a live feed of several of our security cameras (see **Attachment A**). The security video will be displayed on the computer in the audio room in the back of the auditorium. If needed, we can also have a similar display out in the foyer as this is a central spot that would allow a single Security Team member to watch the main entrance to the building, the main entrance to the worship area, the kid's classrooms, AND the security cameras.

With this setup I think appropriate security would be maintained with 1.5 individuals. My thought is one person would be on main security duty and work the foyer area to monitor activity full-time while church is in session on Sunday (worship and class time). This individual would need to be walking the facility and around the foyer before and after worship, as well as when the children are released to classes. When no strangers are in the foyer this individual can sit in the back of the auditorium, if wanting to participate in communion and worship. The second individual would watch the security cameras. This individual would still be mic'd up and would need to be alert of anything curious or alarming in the worship area.

We are also working on an updated safety policy. Draft version available [here](#).

Give this some thought and I'll try and schedule a time for the Safety Team to discuss, possibly after worship some Sunday or on a video conference call. Also, always feel free to email with any questions or suggestions: bret_blackford@yahoo.com.

Appreciate all your service!!

--- Bret

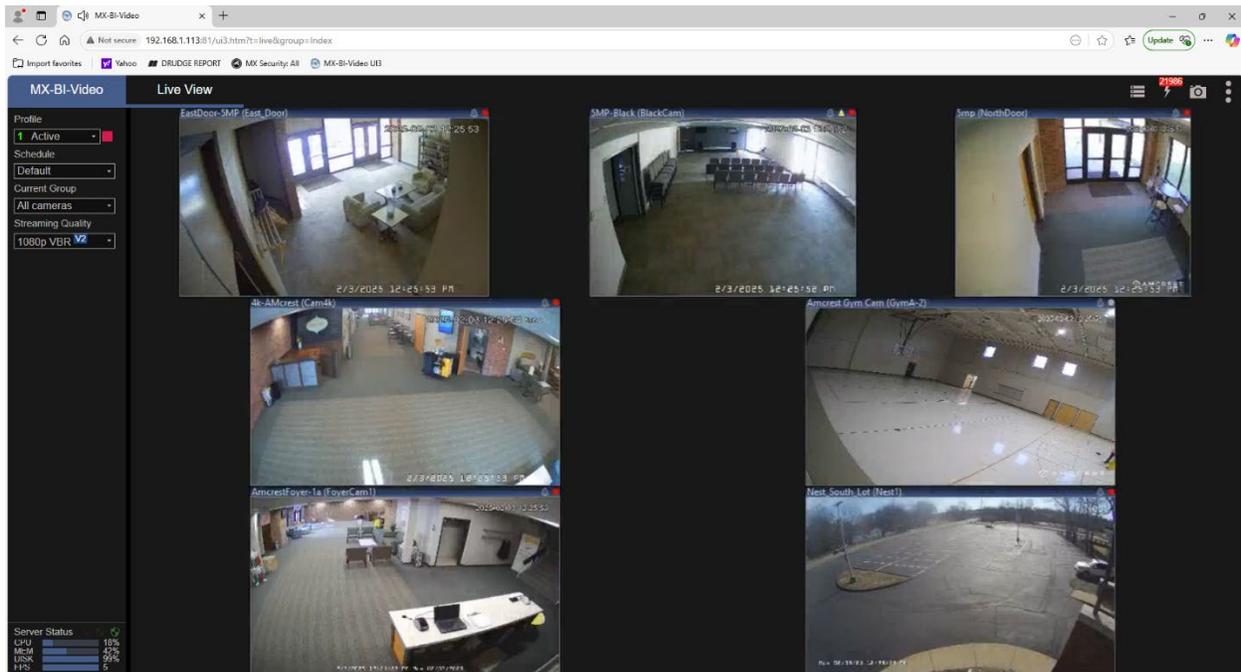
M Bret Blackford
Bret_Blackford@yahoo.com

McKnight Crossings Church of Christ Safety and Security Team

Attachment A

Below is a screen-shot from the MX security camera website that was developed to be used by the MX Security Team. Intent is that this access to live video will allow better security monitoring on a Sunday morning. This security video is displayed on the computer in the audio room at the back of the auditorium.

We currently have 7 cameras in the high-traffic areas. More cameras can be added if deemed appropriate.



The need for security:

Houses of worship face a variety of security concerns due to their open and welcoming nature.

Some key security risks include:

Physical Threats

1. **Violent Attacks** – Places of worship have been targeted for shootings, bombings, and other violent acts.
2. **Vandalism & Hate Crimes** – Religious institutions can be targeted for graffiti, property damage, or arson.
3. **Theft & Burglary** – Churches often contain valuable equipment, donation money, and historical artifacts that can attract thieves.
4. **Disruptive Individuals** – Unruly visitors, protestors, or those with mental health issues can cause disturbances.

Child & Congregant Safety

8. **Child Protection Concerns** – Churches must ensure safe environments for children, including screening volunteers and preventing abuse.
9. **Medical Emergencies** – Congregants may experience medical crises requiring trained personnel and emergency response plans.

Operational Security

10. **Emergency Preparedness** – Churches should have plans for fires, natural disasters, and evacuations.
11. **Access Control** – Managing entry points and securing doors without discouraging visitors.

Mitigation Strategies

- **Security Teams & Training** – Train volunteers and staff in emergency response.
- **Surveillance & Lighting** – Install cameras and ensure adequate lighting around the property.
- **Cybersecurity Measures** – Use strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and train staff on online threats.
- **Background Checks** – Screen volunteers and staff, especially those working with children.
- **Access Control** – Lock unused doors, limit key access, and monitor entrances.

**McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
Safety and Security Team**



Attachment C

Feb-25

McKnight Crossings Church		
Safety Team		
Name	Primary Email	Phone Number
Jayson Vincent	jayson.t.vincent@gmail.com	(517) 819-7805
Jeff Fogarty	Jeff@fogarty.org	(314) 753-2279
Rick Salley	ricray57@gmail.com	(314) 630-7886
Eric McPherson	emcpherson@cfserve.org	(314) 304-4831
Judy Miller	judy.mzzthang.miller@gmail.com	(314) 401-6150
Robert Willeford	RobertJrVWilleford@att.net	214-326-1466
Linda Mueller	lmueller5217@gmail.com	(636) 296-2973
Jim McCoy	jmac100@sbcglobal.net	(314) 973-3788
Kirk Kasicki	Kirk.Kasicki@gmail.com	(314) 805-6179
Bret Blackford	Bret_Blackford@yahoo.com	(314) 402-7086
Steve Borth	scmcs@sbcglobal.net	(314) 540-6290
Steve Jones	jonesy.steve69@gmail.com	(314) 323-4579
Ron Orick	rcorick00@gmail.com	(479) 653-8585
Jim Patterson	jPatt71@outlook.com	(314) 629-9141
Michael Cannon	familycannon3@gmail.com	(314) 240-6154

McKnight Crossings Church		
Medical Assistance		
Name	Mobile #	email
J. Collins Corder	314-307-1093	jcorder20@gmail.com
Cas Grimshaw	314-736-0788	cgrimsha@gmail.com
Shannon Miller	618-975-1607	millernum7@gmail.com
Brett Ferguson	314-484-0537	brettaferguson@yahoo.com



McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ Security Policy
DRAFT February 2025 DRAFT

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Purpose:

This policy ensures a safe and secure environment for all members, visitors, and staff while maintaining an atmosphere of hospitality and worship.

1. General Security Procedures

- Church leaders will designate a **Security Team** composed of trained volunteers.
 - Greeters will serve as the **first line of observation** for any suspicious activity.
 - Security cameras will be placed at all **entrances, parking lots, and high-traffic areas**.
 - All emergency situations must be reported to **911 immediately**.
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2. Handling a Violent Visitor or Active Threat

Response Steps:

1. **Alert Others Quietly** using a pre-arranged **code word** or signal.
 2. **Call 911 Immediately**, providing location and details of the threat.
 3. **De-escalate if possible** by remaining calm and speaking in a **non-threatening tone**.
 4. **Evacuate or Shelter in Place** if violence escalates.
 - If safe, **guide members to exits**.
 - If unable to leave, **barricade in a secure area**.
 5. **Security Team Intervention** should only occur if necessary for protection.
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3. Handling a Disruptive Visitor During Worship

Response Steps:

1. **Approach the individual calmly and discreetly**.
 2. **Encourage compliance** using a firm but gentle tone (e.g., *"Let's step outside to talk about how we can help you."*).
 3. **If they refuse to leave**, notify the **Security Team**.
 4. **Call police** if the situation escalates or becomes threatening.
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4. Preventing Child Abductions & Custody Issues

Child Check-in & Release Policy:

- All children must be **checked in and out** using a secure system.
- Only **authorized adults** listed on the child's records may pick them up.
- Staff must **verify photo ID** for any unfamiliar individuals.

Response to Attempted Abduction:

1. **Deny access** to unauthorized individuals and keep the child inside a secure area.
 2. **Notify church leadership and security immediately**.
 3. **Call 911** if the individual insists or attempts to take the child.
 4. **Monitor all exits** to prevent unauthorized removal.
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5. Emergency Preparedness & Training

- Conduct **annual safety drills** (fire evacuation, active threat response, etc.).
 - Train all **greeters, Elders/ministers, and children's ministry workers** on security protocols.
 - Maintain an **emergency contact list** for local law enforcement and medical personnel.
 - Establish a **discreet alert system** (e.g., using a **code phrase**) to signal security concerns.
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6. Parking Lot & After-Hours Safety

- Ensure **adequate lighting** in parking areas.
 - Have a **security volunteer monitor the lot** during services (via camera system).
 - Offer an **escort service** for individuals walking to their vehicles at night.
 - Designate a **lock-up team** to secure the building after events.
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7. Cybersecurity & Financial Protection

- Implement **secure online giving platforms** with encryption.
 - Restrict access to **financial and membership data** to authorized personnel.
 - Train staff to recognize **phishing attempts** and fraudulent donation requests.
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8. Medical Emergency

- Contact Medical Emergency team. Reference listing in video security room or **Attachment A**
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Review & Updates

This policy will be reviewed **annually** and updated as needed to address emerging security concerns.

Approved by:

[Church Leadership Team]

[Date]



McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
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Attachment A

Medical Assistance – contact information

McKnight Crossings Church							
Medical Assistance							
Name	Mobile #	email	title	Trained in ...			
				CPR	defibrillator	Epipen	Narcan
J. Collins Corder	314-307-1093	jcorder20@gmail.com	Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cas Grimshaw	314-736-0788	cgrimsha@gmail.com	Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shannon Miller	618-975-1607	millernum7@gmail.com	RN	Yes	Yes		
Brett Ferguson	314-484-0537	brettaferguson@yahoo.com	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p>This is a list of medical professionals who are available to assist in an acute medical situation (not to address chronic conditions). Please be respectful and not share contact information without first discussing with these individuals.</p>							