



# THE MINISTRY OF THE SAFETY OFFICER

[Safety Resources](#) > [Solutions Newsletter](#) > The Ministry of the Safety Officer



By: **Angel Barrios**

## The Ministry of the Safety Officer

December 25, 2019

[Administrator](#), [Camp](#), [Church](#), [Safety Officer](#)

The safety officer is a crucial leader in the ministry of risk management. This vital role may often be overlooked. But, the safety officer's top priority is to keep the ministry of risk management on the minds of the church board. The three main ways of doing this are through risk identification, risk control, and risk financing.

### Risk Identification

One of the first jobs of the safety officer is helping the organization to *identify* risk. The safety officer should conduct a self-inspection of the property at least once a year. It is helpful to have a deacon assist in the inspection. By using ARM's Self-Inspection Form ([link](#)) the safety officer can identify potential problems.

It may be wise to conduct a self-inspection before winter to identify maintenance problems that could jeopardize the building. During the winter season, it is common for snow and ice to build up on the roof. This can lead to costly leaks as well as dangerous runoff when the ice and snow melt.

### Risk Control

After the safety officer identifies risks, the safety officer is also to *control* the risk. By working with the pastor and elders, the safety offer can help the church avoid, prevent, and reduce losses from occurring. Depending on the situation, the safety offi

By using this site, you agree with our use of cookies. [Read our Cookie Policy.](#)

[Want to know more?](#)

[I consent to cookies.](#)

working with other leaders will have to decide when it's better to avoid, prevent, or reduce the potential loss. These are defined as:

- **Avoidance:** the church avoids the risk by eliminating the hazard.
- **Prevention:** the church limits rather than eliminates the potential loss.
- **Reduction:** the church accepts that a loss might occur, but will do what it takes to minimize the loss.

The "Recommendations" section of ARM's Self-Inspection Form ([link](#)) allows the church to prevent the possibility of a loss. These recommendations should be shared with the safety committee to approve the final decision.

## **Risk Financing**

After the risks have been identified and controlled, the last step is to *finance* the risk. Risk financing uses insurance to reduce the potential exposure for the church. Buying insurance, however, does not release the organization from taking the necessary precautions to avoid an accident from happening in the first place.

The potential financial loss from uncontrolled risk does more than simply hurt the bottom line of the church budget. The negative impact on the ministry of the church, or "opportunity cost," must be factored into the decision to finance risk. If the church is hesitant to cover the cost of the risk, they must consider what ministries they are willing to stop doing if the church suffers a loss.

The ministry of the safety officer is a team effort that involves the board, pastors, elders, and deacons. It starts with identifying potential risks, determining how to control or minimize those risks, and ensuring that any potential losses do not deter the church from its mission. It is only by performing their due diligence that the safety officer can help to maintain and protect the church organization.

"For the lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers" Proverbs 11:14 New International Version (NIV)

[Click here](#) for more resources on safety officer ministry.

The Church Safety Officer | Adventist Risk Management, Inc.



This material is fact based general information provided by Adventist Risk Management®, Inc. and should not, under any circumstances, be modified or changed without prior permission. It should not be considered specific legal advice regarding a particular matter or subject. Please consult your local attorney or risk manager if you would like to discuss how a local jurisdiction handles specific circumstances you may be facing.

## SHARE ARTICLE

f t in G p @

Copy Link

## PRINT ARTICLE

Print

## SEARCH ARTICLES

Search...



## CATEGORIES

Camp

Child And Youth

Church

Pathfinder Safety

Early Education

Medical Facilities

Primary Education

Safety Officer

School

University

Administrator

## MOST POPULAR

[3 DIY's to Prepare Your Facilities for Winter](#)

[2018 NAD Risk Management Initiatives](#)

[2015 in Review](#)

[15-Passenger Vans: What is the Danger?](#)

[15-Passenger Vans: The Risks and the Alternatives](#)

## ARCHIVES

[2020](#)

[2019](#)

[2018](#)

[2017](#)

[2016](#)

[2015](#)

[January 2020](#)

[February 2020](#)

# Protect Your Ministry

Get our free newsletter, *Solutions*

  
  
  
  

HTML

Text

The data provided in this form will only be used to provide you with the Solutions Newsletter. Your information will be shared with a third party email processor in order to provide you with the newsletter. You may unsubscribe from receiving this newsletter at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link in the newsletter. View our [Privacy Policy](#).

Yes, use my information to contact me and for the purposes stated above.

[Subscribe To List](#)

## **About Us**

[About ARM](#)

[Board](#)

[History](#)

[Leadership Officers](#)

[News](#)

## **Insurance**

[Activities Accident - US Only](#)

[Camp](#)

[Commercial Auto](#)

[Cyber Liability](#)

[General Liability](#)

[Group Coverages](#)

[International SOS](#)

[Out-of-Country](#)

[Personal Effects Baggage](#)

[Property](#)

[Recreational Sports](#)

[Short-Term Travel](#)

[Task Force](#)

[Volunteer Labor \(Daily\)](#)

## **File Your Claim**

[FAQS](#)

[Insurance Claims Policy](#)

## **Risk Management Initiatives**

## **Safety Resources**

[Camp Safety](#)

[Church Safety](#)

[Pathfinder Safety](#)

By using this site, you agree with our use of cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Want to know more?](#)

**I consent to cookies.**

[School Safety](#)

[Wildfire](#)

[Safety Sabbath](#)

[Solutions Newsletter](#)

[Webinars And Videos](#)

---

## Adventist Risk Management<sup>®</sup>, Inc.

Headquarters

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904

888-951-4ARM (4276)

[customercare@adventistrisk.org](mailto:customercare@adventistrisk.org)



[PRIVACY POLICY](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [COOKIE POLICY](#) [COOKIE PREFERENCES](#) [DELETE DATA REQUEST](#)

© 2020 Adventist Risk Management<sup>®</sup>, Inc.