

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Churches Updating Emergency Contacts

Recently, the North District of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has experienced church criminal mischief, burglaries and break-ins. During investigation, it has become apparent that not all churches have updated emergency contact information. The OCSO Chaplains and the OCSO Crime Prevention Unit will be contacting local churches to update emergency contact information in the Master Business Index (MBI.) Deputies utilize emergency contact information through the MBI when they respond to calls for service, emergencies or alarms. This project will benefit the OCSO and churches in the community by ensuring emergency contact information in the OCSO records system. This is a voluntary program; however, your participation is highly encouraged.

Also, the Crime Prevention Unit offers free Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) security surveys for all local churches and businesses throughout the county. CPTED is the utilization of crime prevention elements such as natural surveillance, access control, lighting and territorial reinforcement into the use of property. Adding these crime prevention elements into the property can lead to a reduction of crime. All information contained in the security survey is confidential.

Anyone who would like more information can contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 850-651-7410 or email Ashley Bailey, Crime Prevention Manager, at abailey@sheriff-okaloosa.org