



Sedona Unitarian Universalist Emergency Response Plan

This Emergency Response Plan is designed to help the members of the Sedona UU Fellowship in the event that an act of violence occurs during a service/meeting. While acts of violence at churches are rare, they do occur. For example: As recently as July 2015, a gunman killed nine people in a church in Charleston South Carolina.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified several hate groups in Arizona. Most of these groups are neo Nazi. One group identified as Family Watch International has been identified as a LGBT hate group. These groups are located in the Phoenix area and southern Arizona. According to the Sedona Police Department, there are no known hate groups in the area.

As our Fellowship grows and becomes more visible to the larger community as a progressive voice for social justice and other causes, we need to address some basic safety issues.

This plan informs members what they should do and who to contact if they suspect someone is mentally disturbed, acting suspiciously or acting in a threatening manner. This plan gives members some basic guidelines on what to do if someone becomes violent and starts shooting, or otherwise hurting members. The plan also tells members what to do when the police respond.

What should you do if you suspect someone is acting suspicious or is mentally disturbed?

- If you can, contact another person and tell them your concerns.
- If possible separate the suspicious person or persons from the rest of the group
- If you believe that a person poses a threat: Trust your instincts, call 911 or tell someone else to call 911.

What should you do if someone becomes violent and starts shooting or otherwise hurting you or others?

- **Call 911**
- **RUN:** Leave the area immediately and if possible try to help others to leave.
- **HIDE:** If it is not possible to leave the building then run, hide and/or lock yourself and others in rooms and/or closets.
- **FIGHT:** If you have no other option in order to save your life or others but to physically confront the person, do it decisively and quickly.

What to do when the Police respond:

- Obey the commands of the police officers.
- Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Be cooperative and tell the police what you witnessed.

Firearms policy

At this time we do not expect members to be armed or to have security personnel in attendance during our SUUF services or meetings.

Kee in mind that no emergency plan can cover all possible circumstances. While a violent confrontation is very unlikely, individual members should consider how they would act during a violent confrontation by following the guidelines above and keep yourself aware and informed in case a situation arises.