

Am Shalom Congregation Safety Procedures

The safety and well-being of our congregants and visitors is our top priority.

Please ensure you help your child understand these procedures and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Shelter in place

Shelter in place is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. During a shelter in place, activities will continue inside Am Shalom, but participants will not be allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.

Hold and secure

A hold and secure is initiated when there is a situation in the community that is not related to Am Shalom, like a bank robbery nearby. A hold and secure is usually initiated by police. During a hold and secure, activities continue inside the building, but all exterior doors are locked and no one is allowed to enter or exit.

Lockdown

A lockdown is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to Am Shalom. A lockdown can be initiated by police or Am Shalom board members. During a lockdown, everyone in the Am Shalom building will move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Everyone is to remain quiet.

Locked doors and arrival/dismissal

Am Shalom Congregation's exterior doors are locked from Sunday through Friday. Visitors must use the intercom system to enter the building.

On Saturdays the doors are unlocked from 9:30am throughout services, which end at approximately 1:00pm. Board members are to act as greeters and welcome people as they enter the lobby of the building.

Fire and evacuation drills

In case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents which would require everyone to leave the building, all persons are asked to leave by the nearest exit (usually the main entrance door) and meet at the far side of the parking lot – near the Am Shalom entrance sign.

Criminal background checks for staff and volunteers

All staff that work in the religious school are required to complete a criminal background check with vulnerable sector screening before having contact with students.

First Aid equipment

At least one board member and teacher are trained in first aid and CPR. Am Shalom has an Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the upstairs lobby. There are multiple First Aid Kits in the building classrooms and in the office.

Police Partnership

Am Shalom Congregation works closely with Barrie Police Services to ensure we are doing all we can to keep our members and visitors safe.

If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office or speak to a board member.