The first pillar of the ten pillars in the R.E.S.I.L.I.E.N.C.E Model is “Resilience – Responsibilities, Roles, and Readiness” (R3) [or am I putting: Resilience – Roles and Responsibilities (R2)]. This pillar focuses on the fact that security and safety is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone has to do their part to promote a safe and secure environment and to create a culture of safety and security. Citizens have to be knowledgeable and aware of the basic dangers that are out there in the world. Everyone is responsible for keeping their selves secure and safe by locking their doors, having passwords, and having back up plans. This isn’t any different, Houses of Worship need to confront their limitations and know what they can do to be as secure as possible.

Roles and Responsibilities

• It starts with who is doing what to who when?
• Who’s in charge of what, when?
• Identify a Security Manager (CSO), Head of Communications,
• Cyber may be a separate person (CISO like function); CTO possible as well;
Resource Management (Grants, Donations, Fundraising, etc.)

Be able to identify and assign key roles like a security manager. Have a basic plan in case of certain situation, run evacuation drill, have someone who is aware of the security issues as well as plan towards resolving those issues. Things like “See Something, Say Something” or “Run, Hide, Fight” should be known by the general public.

The leader of a House of Worship or site of gathering needs to take an active role in security of their space or at the very lease have someone assigned to a role that can focus on the security of their space. They need to utilize the volunteer within their organization and assign roles and responsibilities. They need to invest in emergency management, risk management, natural disaster as well as manmade disaster plans with assigned roles and responsibilities; it’s about getting people to safety and then quickly being able to provide your services.
Resilience has come up 191 times in 31 interviews, as you can see in the bar chart. Roles and Responsibilities (R2) is the 6th highest mention out of the ten pillars. This proves that having in roles, responsibilities, plans, and being prepared is important towards the security of a House of Worship.

“Security and Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility”

What can you do?

- Learn about the crimes and threats that can happen to you, your community, or your house of worship
- Map out the House of worship to determine the best exit routes, to be aware of the amount of entrances/ exits along with their location
- Have security measures in place even if it’s as basic as a lock and key, something is better than nothing
- Have a plan for certain situations such as a shooting, earthquake, flood, fire, etc.
- Know what role you have to play and understand the responsibilities that come with your role
- Training/ Exercises
- Have someone at your House of Worship be in charge or security
- Have a contact/liaisons with local law enforcement

“So that individual organization needs to take some level of responsibility for their own wellbeing, just like we all take some part of our safety and security.” – Andy Jabbour