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CHURCH SAFETY PREPAREDNESS MEETING

On Wednesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m., the Sioux County Sheriff's Office hosted a church safety preparedness training seminar.

This training event occurred at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Orange City, IA. The audience of approximately 140 people consisted of area church pastors, church leadership, church parishioners and area law enforcement officers.

Sioux County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer (SRO) Deputy Waylon Pollema and Chief Deputy Nate Huizenga presented options and ideas based on the A.L.I.C.E. principles: **A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate). The presentation also included videos from National tragic events where there was an active shooter present and commentary from Pollema, who is also a certified A.L.I.C.E. instructor and has taught this training to area businesses, school teachers and students.

Huizenga said, "This church safety training offered a set of options for what can be done in the event of an active shooter that those in attendance can take back to their own churches and implement a response plan of their own. Several good questions were asked from the attendees that generated a very positive, informational time for discussion."

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office would like to thank Pastor John Klompfen and the Calvary Christian Reformed Church for hosting this event.

