



NORTH AMERICAN ISLAMIC TRUST (NAIT)

Committed to Building the Muslim Community

Masajid's Safety Advisory

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630-789-9191

Info@NAIT.net

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

AsSalaamu Alaykum wa Rehmatullah wa Barakatuh

InshaAllah, you and your family are continuing to be blessed during this Ramadan, the month of mercy, forgiveness and shield from the eternal torment.

Today, before Sahoor time, Joplin masjid of the Islamic Society of Joplin was completely burnt down. Only charred remains are where masjid used to be. Earlier, on the morning of July 4, a man had attempted to set this masjid on fire, but only its roof was damaged. Even though, his image was caught on surveillance cameras in July, and a \$15,000 reward for information leading to charges from the FBI remains, no arrest has been made. *Alhamdulillah*, no one was hurt in either fires.

Burning of the Joplin masjid and yesterday's deadly shooting of innocent Sikh worshipers in the Milwaukee Sikh Gurdwara are reprehensible.

While Americans at large are committed to mutual respect, security and safety, especially of houses of worship, there is a small minority which is not. Many of these are inflicted with "character-conditioned" hate, described as "continuing readiness to hate" members of some other group, not one's own, for irrational reasons (Eric Fromm, 1947).

These two incidents and the ongoing Islamophobic talk of even our public officials requires that everyone remain vigilant, take appropriate precautions, and communicate any suspicious activity to local law enforcement personnel. Researchers have concluded that "People who hate groups in the abstract will, in actual conduct, often act fairly and even kindly toward individual members of the group" (Gordon Allport, 1954, p. 363-364).

To protect Muslim individuals, masjid and schools, several national organizations have developed safety and security guidelines for Islamic centers, one of which is hereunder for your consideration and adoption:

[CAIR Community Safety Kit](#)

Thank you for your attention.

WasSalaam,

Mujeeb Cheema
Executive Director

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