

## Old St. Paul's Historic Church Fire Scenario

**Setting:** Easter Sunrise Service, 15 minutes before sunrise. Candle Chandeliers are lit and church is full with 300 worshipers. The service has started and doors are closed but 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows are open.

**Event:** One of the lit chandeliers falls from the ceiling and burning candles and melted wax cover the floor in a small flame area about 36" in diameter.

### Event Actions:

- Someone in the congregation yells **"FIRE"**
- SST members inside church make their way to podium and retrieve fire extinguisher
- **Panic** ensues in upper gallery and people start pushing their way down stairs wells
- Someone trips and falls on stairs and people start forcing their way over the top of people who are down
- SST members put out fire and try and control the panic
- Fire is out with only slight charring to floor, SST notifies everyone inside that the fire is out and panic subsides. Multiple people are down & injured on the stairwells.
- Church lower level is evacuated in an orderly manner. Upper level is not evacuated until injured are treated and transported.

### Results of Action:

- 20 people are injured on both stair wells. EMS is notified of multiple patients. SST and on site MERT personnel start assisting injured people (Trauma Bag on site). EMS transports 10 people (mostly elderly and children) to hospital with broken bones, contusions and other non- life threatening injuries. Numerous others are checked treated and released for heart and breathing issues due to panic.

### Aftermath:

- 8 lawsuits are filed against Old St Paul's Church for damages due to negligence. Total monetary liability of the 8 lawsuits is 1.2 million dollars. Attorney fees could exceed \$200,000.

### Facts:

- OSP has no liability insurance on historic church
- OSP is not incorporated as stated in constitution which places monetary liability of lawsuits and attorney fees on all members of congregation