PROTECTING INFRASTRUCTURE DURING PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The right to assemble is recognized as a key American value and is protected in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Demonstrations are richly woven into the fabric of American history, with many famous protests featured in the nation's history books. These events, however, have the potential to provide a setting for individuals who would violate the laws of the state. In these instances, the tactics associated with demonstrations can include the use of firearms, edged weapons, vehicle ramming, arson, improvised explosive devices, and other means to inflict harm or destroy property. **To mitigate potential impacts, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides resources to the critical infrastructure community to support efforts in protecting people and property.**

RISK MITIGATION

To mitigate potentially adverse effects when individuals commit unlawful acts during or concurrent with public demonstrations, infrastructure owners and operators should consider:

PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

- Establishing direct communication with local law enforcement, including fusion centers, to understand when demonstrations have the potential to become or involve unlawful acts, as well as what threats to businesses and residents might exist in the protest environment

- Working with building owners on security preparations including shutting down power, water, and ventilation if businesses are tenants

- Identifying scheduled local demonstrations and adjusting business hours

- Maintaining emergency plans that include evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures

- Purchasing general liability and property insurance to cover loss, damage, or theft

PHYSICAL SECURITY AND SAFETY

- Avoiding the obstruction or provocation of protesters

- Hiring security guards and increasing security presence during demonstrations

- Removing valuables from plain view and increasing the visual security of the business to deter a criminal act

- Closing the business for the day

- Establishing perimeters around the facility to restrict access

- Securing and monitoring emergency exit doors

- Blocking access to non-window openings such as mechanical vents to prevent forcible entry

- Ensuring closed-circuit television cameras are operable and the facility is properly lit

- Removing items within the perimeter that could be thrown through windows and locking trash receptacles

RESOURCES 🌐

To support the critical infrastructure community with enhancing security and resilience, CISA provides access to a wide range of training, exercises, tools, and other materials which address a variety of threat vectors (e.g., active shooter, bombing, vehicle ramming, etc.), as well as other resources that can assist with maintaining vigilance and identifying concerning activities.

These resources provide valuable information for the critical infrastructure community's consideration and offer entry points to many other CISA programs. For additional information regarding these resources contact central@mail.cisa.dhs.gov.

Securing Public Gatherings

Provides access to information and resources regarding the types of threats posed to publicly accessible areas and offers options for consideration to support risk mitigation activities.

cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings

CISA Bombing Prevention

Maintains a range of actionable counter-improvised explosive device security and preparedness resources, including those focused on how to safely respond to bomb threats or suspicious items, gain threat and incident information, and access training and awareness videos to enhance preparedness.

cisa.gov/office-bombing-prevention-obp

Interagency Security Committee

Provides access to a series of best practices, standards, and guidance documents that are geared toward government facility security.

cisa.gov/isc-policies-standards-best-practices

Protective Security Advisors (PSA)

Provides access to a cadre of more than 120 subject matter experts across the country who conduct infrastructure security and vulnerability mitigation activities at the local level.

cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors

Conflict Prevention

Provides resources that emphasize the use of situational awareness combined with informed action (e.g., de-escalation) to enable violence prevention.

cisa.gov/conflict-prevention

Hostile Vehicle Mitigation

Provides access to tools and resources to assist with vulnerability assessments and offers guidance to help with the development of planning considerations to manage risk from a hostile vehicle incident.

cisa.gov/hostile-vehicle-mitigation