PHYSICAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR TEMPORARY FACILITIES

OVERVIEW

Temporary facilities—those that are established for a set period to host an event—face unique security challenges due to their provisional nature. The dynamic threat environment, including both international and domestic violent extremists who emphasize attacks against public gathering locations and venues, further underscores the importance of incorporating security measures to keep facilities and people safe. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends organizations evaluate existing security plans for the temporary venue, event, or facility, determine whether current protective measures provide adequate security, and implement additional security enhancements where applicable.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

To comprehensively mitigate the impacts of a potential attack against a temporary facility, an important first step is to conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify and prioritize areas of concern that need to be addressed. In addition, an emergency action plan should be developed to document and specify the steps venue personnel should take in response to an incident. These plans should be coordinated with local law enforcement agencies and first responders—particularly important for temporary venues as emergency responders may not be familiar with the event, the facility, or its current use. If possible, exercise these plans with venue personnel and emergency responders to assess capabilities and security measures, and to identify areas for improvement. CISA Protective Security Advisors (PSAs), specialists located throughout the country, are available to assist with vulnerability assessments, emergency action planning, exercises, and security-based coordination.

RISK MITIGATION

After conducting a vulnerability assessment, operators of temporary facilities should consider implementing appropriate protective measures to address identified security gaps. This can be accomplished without disrupting the open and welcoming environment, which is often a necessary criterion for temporary facilities that are used for special events. Based on results of the vulnerability assessment, operators can consider a multitude of cost-effective protective measures to enhance security. Some examples of protective measures include, but are not limited to:

- Ensure all closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras or video surveillance systems are operable. If the system is to be used for crowd management, it must be monitored.

- Confirm parking areas provide appropriate standoff distance from where crowds will gather, have ways to restrict high-speed avenues of approach to mitigate the use of a vehicle as a weapon, and have appropriate lighting.

- Use stanchions, barriers, and chains/ropes to create a single-file, serpentine approach to entry to limit the number of people at the entry point.

- Remove items within the perimeter that can be thrown through windows or conceal an incendiary or explosive device. This includes removing or locking trash receptacles.

- Establish primary and alternate methods of communication with local law enforcement to ensure timely and accurate information sharing and suspicious activity reporting.

- Advise support personnel of steps (i.e., run, hide, fight) to follow during an active shooter incident.

- Ensure support personnel are familiar with de-escalation techniques and use the "buddy system" when feasible.

- Train support personnel to report unattended/suspicious bags, parcels, or other items immediately to law enforcement. A suspicious item can be anything hidden, obviously suspicious, or unusual.

- Post appropriate signage to guide individuals to safety and provide critical information during an emergency.

- Secure non-public entrances or post staff to monitor non-public entrances.

- Secure potentially dangerous chemicals.

- Consider implementing access control measures, such as bag check procedures, identification of screened personnel, and the use of weapons screening technologies (e.g., walk-through metal or handheld metal detectors).

- Position emergency first aid and other life-saving equipment, including Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and tourniquets, in multiple accessible locations throughout the facility/location.

⚠️ IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS

Immediately contact 9-1-1 and activate the emergency action plan. Every staff member and volunteer with assigned emergency tasks should know how and when to perform them. These may include life-saving procedures. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-supported *Stop the Bleed®* program teaches lifesaving first aid techniques that facilities should incorporate into planning efforts.

🖥️ RESOURCES

Active Shooter Preparedness
cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness
Provides resources and trainings that focus on behavioral indicators, emergency action plan creation, actions that may be taken during an incident to reduce consequences, and how to more effectively recover from an incident.

Commercial Facilities Publications
cisa.gov/commercial-facilities-publications
Provides resources specifically for planning and managing security at commercial facilities.

Securing Public Gatherings
cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings
Provides information on the types of threats posed to public gatherings and resources with options for consideration to support risk mitigation activities.

Employee Vigilance – Power of Hello
cisa.gov/power-hello
Provides information to assist with identifying and responding to suspicious behavior.

De-Escalation Resources
cisa.gov/de-escalation
Provides information on observation and communication techniques that can be employed during volatile encounters to stabilize, slow, or reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation without physical force.

Bombing Prevention
cisa.gov/obp
Provides a range of actionable counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) security and preparedness resources, including how to safely respond to bomb threats or suspicious items, access threat and incident information, and use training and awareness videos to enhance preparedness.

Exercises
cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-exercises
Provides a wide range of exercise services, including customizable CISA tabletop exercise packages to address a variety of threat scenarios.

CISA Protective Security Advisors
cisa.gov/about/regions/security-advisors
Provide security advice and assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) officials and critical infrastructure owners and operators, and provide coordination and support in times of threat, disruption, or attack.

Stop the Bleed®
stopthebleed.org
Provides training to save lives through three basic actions to stop life-threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies and man-made and natural disasters.