

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

Protective Security Coordination Division
Office of Infrastructure Protection



Infrastructure Protection Report Series
Protective Measures for
Active Shooter with Explosive Device

BACKGROUND

Recent events have underscored the importance of planning for active shooter scenarios in which perpetrator(s) attempt to inflict mass casualties. To reduce vulnerabilities from such an attack, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) recommends the protective measures listed below.

SCOPE

This document cites analyses of tactics, techniques, and procedures highlighted from the recent attacks and provides security recommendations to address similar possible attack methods. The following phases are recommended for implementation as an outline for specific protective measures:

PHASE 1 Pre-Event Planning

PHASE 2 Site Assessment

PHASE 3 Immediate Action Response

PHASE 4 Post-Event/Analysis

General Protective Measures

For general protective measures regarding facilities in the critical infrastructure sectors, please consult the Critical Infrastructure Report Series.

Pre-Event Planning

- Conduct background checks on all employees if possible
- Establish credentialing procedures for staff/employees
- Identify and credential vendors with access to the facility
- When possible, alter deliveries to avoid developing discernible patterns
- Construct a comprehensive site security plan include alerting/communications capabilities
- For Maritime access concerns, develop Maritime Security plans
- Coordinate with Captain of the Port, Federal, State and local LE agencies for planning
- Ensure the facility auxiliary power capabilities are routinely tested



- Train staff to identify inconsistent behavior (e.g. loitering, checking for unlocked doors etc.)
- Maintain accountability and control of facility blueprints
- Share facility blueprints with applicable response agencies
- Schedule visits with public safety responders to familiarize themselves with the facility
- Ensure responders meet with their critical counterparts
- Install and monitor CCTV cameras at venue(s) which cover multiple angles and access points
- Have the ability to capture and extrapolate images and videos from CCTV
- Establish random security patrols to decrease the ability for an adversary to identify schedules
- Establish facility emergency escape routes
- Designate hardened safe rooms/zones if evacuation/escape is not possible
- Stage adequate provisions (water/non-perishable food, kitty litter containers) in safe room/zone
- Develop awareness training for facility personnel to increase vigilance and reporting protocols
- Coordinate with local organizations/businesses to establish Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Create an alert plan for surrounding facilities for individual(s) displaying erratic behavior
- Establish procedures for notifying authorities of individuals displaying irrational behavior

- Be cognizant of scheduled special events or dignitary visits in and around your facility
- Schedule annual large scale exercises for security plan(s) validation
- Schedule mass evacuation exercises, designate multiple evacuation sites; situation dependent
- Coordinate with local mental health facilities to determine if disturbed patients have been released
- Develop lock down procedures, incorporate automatic locking/alerting mechanisms
- Develop fire suppression practices in the event of fires
- Be mindful of persons photographing, videotaping, sketching or pace counting

Site Assessment Phase

- Notify authorities of individuals displaying irrational behavior
- Alert local organizations/businesses of individual(s) displaying erratic behavior
- Establish an outer perimeter at target site(s) to deny access or to intercept potential assailants
- Establish security at access points and approach routes
- Ensure security personnel and security measures are in place at all access points;
- Employ automatic lock down protocols
- Implement MARSEC protocols, deploy adequate harbor patrols and increase awareness
- Establish check points and other access control measures for all vessels;
- Reinforce surveillance detection measures for waterfront businesses/residents
- Require all vessels to positively identify themselves prior to entering the port area
- Ensure appropriate reporting measures are in place
- Broadcast alert messages over intercoms for instructing personnel if situation allows
- Execute evacuation protocols and ensure personnel are familiar with procedures

Immediate Action Response

- Execute facility shut/lock down procedures:
- Alert security and response force of incident and coordinate response
- Keep hands in plain sight to ensure LE does not mistake victims for an adversary
- Establish a 360° perimeter ensuring safety of surrounding public and adversaries can't leave
- Check for possible snipers by conducting a 360° visual inspection with binoculars
- Engage hostiles using established Rules of Engagement
- Implement immediate evacuation protocols for safe rooms/zones
- Conduct security sweeps for secondary devices
- Increase security measures in zones that could be compromised
- Establish a casualty triage area and designate a medical evacuation site for emergency extraction
- Sweep Responders Command Post to ensure it is secure of threats or hazards
- Establish ingress/egress routes for emergency vehicles

Post-Event/Analysis

- Following the crisis, maintain a high level security posture for potential follow on attacks by the adversary
- Conduct damage and consequence assessment of the facility
- Conduct perimeter and facility sweeps to ensure IEDs were not left by the assault force
- Reconstitute personnel and resources used or lost in the attack
- Assess timeframe for reestablishing limited or full operations
- Conduct detailed After Actions Report
- Implement lessons learned
- Provide safety assurances to facility's workforce that the site is secure for continued operation