



# PHYSICAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR TEMPORARY FACILITIES

## OVERVIEW

Temporary facilities—those that are established for set timeframes for hosting a venue—face unique security challenges due to their provisional nature. The dynamic threat environment, inclusive of international and domestic violent extremists emphasizing attacks in public gathering locations, further underscore the importance of incorporating security measures to keep facilities and people safe.<sup>1</sup> Although there are currently no specific or imminent threats to temporary facilities, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends that operators determine whether a security plan exists for the facility and if current protective measures provide the necessary security for the event.

## VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

To comprehensively mitigate the impacts of a potential attack to 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 specify the steps that venue personnel should take following an incident.<sup>2</sup> These plans should be coordinated with local law enforcement agencies and first responders; this is particularly important for temporary venues as emergency responders may not be familiar with the event, the facility, and its current temporary use/purpose. If possible, exercise the plans with venue personnel and emergency responders to assess capabilities and security measures to determine potential areas for improvement. CISA Protective Security Advisors, security subject matter experts located throughout the country, are available to assist with vulnerability assessments, emergency action planning, exercises, and security-based coordination.<sup>3</sup>

## RISK MITIGATION

Upon conducting a vulnerability assessment, operators of temporary facilities should consider implementing appropriate protective measures to address potential gaps in security. This can be accomplished in a manner that does not preclude an open and welcoming environment, which is often a necessary criterion for temporary facilities that are used for special events. Based upon results of the vulnerability assessment, operators can consider a multitude of cost-effective protective measures to enhance security. Example protective measures include, but are not limited to:

- If the facility has a closed circuit television camera system, ensure that it is operable. If the system is to be used for crowd management, it must be monitored.
- Ensure support personnel are familiar with de-escalation tactics and to use the “buddy system” when feasible.
- 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 vehicle as a weapon, and have appropriate lighting.
- Train support personnel to report unattended/suspicious bags, parcels, or cookware immediately to law enforcement. A suspicious item can be anything that is hidden, obviously suspicious, and not typical.<sup>4</sup>
- Use stanchions and chains/ropes to create a single file serpentine approach to entry to limit the amount of people at the entry point.
- Post appropriate way-finding/directional signage and the International Symbol of Accessibility on entrances and paths that guide the public to the facility.
- Remove items within the perimeter that can be thrown through windows or hide an incendiary or explosive device. This includes removing or locking trash receptacles.
- Secure non-public entrances or post workers to monitor non-public entrances.
- Establish primary and alternate methods of communication with local law enforcement to ensure timely and accurate information sharing and suspicious activity reporting.
- Secure chemicals that could pose risks to human life or health.
- Advise support personnel of simple steps (i.e., run, hide, fight) to follow during an active shooter incident.
- Consider measures related to access control—bag check procedures, identification of screened personnel, and implementation of screening devices such as walk-through metal detectors or hand-held metal detectors.

<sup>1</sup> For continued information on threats, visit the National Terrorism Advisory System web page at [dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system](https://dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system).  
<sup>2</sup> [cisa.gov/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-video](https://cisa.gov/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-video).  
<sup>3</sup> For more information visit [cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors](https://cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors) or email [centeral@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:centeral@cisa.dhs.gov).  
<sup>4</sup> [cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat](https://cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat).



## IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS

Immediately call 9-1-1. Set the emergency action plan in motion. Every employee and volunteer who has an emergency task should know how and when to perform it; this may include life-saving procedures. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's *You Are the Help until Help Arrives*<sup>5</sup> curriculum and the Department of Homeland Security *Stop the Bleed*<sup>6</sup> program teach life-saving first aid techniques that should be incorporated into planning efforts.



## RESOURCES

CISA provides access to a wealth of capabilities that support security capacity building efforts, including resources, training, and exercises.

### Active Shooter Preparedness

[cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](https://cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

Consists of 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 quickly recover from an incident.

### Commercial Facilities Publications

[cisa.gov/commercial-facilities-publications](https://cisa.gov/commercial-facilities-publications)

Provides access to resources specifically geared towards planning and managing security at facilities.

### Securing Public Gatherings

[cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings](https://cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings)

Provides access to information regarding 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/employee-vigilance-power-hello](https://cisa.gov/employee-vigilance-power-hello)

Provides information on actions that may be taken when suspicious behavior is observed.

### De-Escalation for Critical Infrastructure Owners and Operators

[cisa.gov/de-escalation-series](https://cisa.gov/de-escalation-series)

Provides information on communication or other techniques during an encounter to stabilize, slow, or reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation without using physical force.

### Bombing Prevention

[cisa.gov/office-bombing-prevention-obp](https://cisa.gov/office-bombing-prevention-obp)

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.

### Exercises

[cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-exercises](https://cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-exercises)

Offers a wide range of exercise services, including customizable CISA tabletop exercise packages to address a variety of threat scenarios.

### ChemLock - Security Plan

[cisa.gov/chemlock-security-plan](https://cisa.gov/chemlock-security-plan)

For a security plan template visit ChemLock.

### Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) If You See Something, Say Something®

[dhs.gov/see-something-say-something](https://dhs.gov/see-something-say-something)

Provides public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and targeted violence, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement.

<sup>5</sup> [community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives](https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives).

<sup>6</sup> [dhs.gov/stopthebleed](https://dhs.gov/stopthebleed).

