



NJOHSP

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION RESOURCE SHEET

LARGE OUTDOOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Large outdoor public gatherings include, but are not limited to, parades, fairs, festivals, rallies, farmer's markets, demonstrations, concerts, and celebrations. Large outdoor public gatherings are not confined to a physical structure and do not rely on a permanent allocation of dedicated security resources. They usually rely on local law enforcement to provide security during an event. Large outdoor public gatherings are often open-access events, a type that has been successfully targeted by terrorists in the past.

Threats of Most Concern to Large Outdoor Public Gatherings Include:

- Small-arms attack
- Improvised explosive devices
- Chemical, biological, or radiological agents

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activity Include:

- Suspicious persons wearing bulky clothing that may conceal weapons or explosives
- Suspicious or illegally parked vehicles near buildings or where crowds gather
- Unattended packages such as backpacks that could contain explosives
- Persons attempting to gain unauthorized entry to restricted areas

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Surveillance Include:

- Persons discovered with documents highlighting critical areas, security infrastructure, or high-profile attendees
- Personnel being questioned about venue operations or security measures
- Unfamiliar employees, contract workers, or unannounced maintenance activities in the vicinity

Considerations for Law Enforcement Include:

- Prepare mentally and physically for attacks at large public events that could result in mass casualties
- Be aware of tactical challenges of limited ingress, egress, low visibility, and potential for mass panic
- Be cognizant of potential for multiple shooters or a barricaded suspect with hostages

Protective Measures Include:

- Develop plans for security and emergency response
- Establish regular communications with local law enforcement
- Conduct regular emergency response exercises with event staff
- Incorporate security awareness and response procedures into pre-event training
- Control pedestrian and vehicular access to the event and its restricted areas
- Install and regularly test an emergency communication system
- Take threats seriously and encourage event staff to report any threat or suspicious situation

Incident Response

Alert law enforcement immediately by calling 9-1-1

Connect.

Visit njohsp.gov to connect with NJOHSP, find resources available, and maintain awareness of threat information.

Prepare.

Visit njohsp.gov/resources to learn about planning resources for your organization.

Train.

Visit njohsp.gov/programs to learn about training and exercises for your organization.

Report Suspicious Activity.

Dial 2-1-1 or email tips@njohsp.gov to report suspicious activity in New Jersey.

Visit njohsp.gov/report to learn more about suspicious activity reporting.