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
- Vehicle as a weapon
- 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.