Counter Terrorism Protective Security Advice

for Cinemas and Theatres

■ four physical security

Physical security is important in protecting against a range of threats and addressing vulnerability.

Put in place security measures to remove or reduce your vulnerabilities to as low as reasonably practicable bearing in mind the need to consider safety as a priority at all times. Security measures must not compromise visitor safety.

Your risk assessment will determine which measures you should adopt, but they range from basic good housekeeping (keeping communal areas clean and tidy) through CCTV, intruder alarms, computer security and lighting, to specialist solutions such as mail scanning equipment.

Specialist solutions, in particular, should be based on a thorough assessment – not least because you might otherwise invest in equipment which is ineffective, unnecessary and expensive.

Successful security measures require:

• The support of senior management.

• Staff awareness of the measures and their responsibility in making them work.

• A senior, identified person within your organisation having responsibility for security.

Action you should consider

Contact your Counter Terrorism Security Adviser (CTSA) through your local police force at the start of the process. As well as advising you on physical security, they can direct you to professional bodies that regulate and oversee reputable suppliers.

Remember, you will need to ensure that all necessary regulations are met, such as local planning permission, building consents, health and safety and fire prevention requirements.

Plan carefully – as this can help keep costs down. Whilst it is important not to delay the introduction of necessary equipment or procedures, costs may be reduced if new changes coincide with new building or refurbishment work.

Security awareness

The vigilance of your staff (including concessionaire, cleaning, maintenance and contract staff) is essential to your protective measures. They will know their own work areas or offices very well and should be encouraged to be alert to unusual behaviour or items out of place.

They must have the confidence to report any suspicions, knowing that reports – including false alarms – will be taken seriously and regarded as a contribution to the safe running of the cinema or theatre.

Training is therefore particularly important. Staff should be briefed to look out for packages, bags or other items in odd places, carefully placed (rather than dropped) items in rubbish bins and unusual interest shown by strangers in less accessible places. See hostile reconnaissance on page 51.

Access control

Keep access points to a minimum and make sure the boundary between public and private areas of your operation is secure and clearly signed. Invest in good quality access control systems operated by magnetic swipe or contact proximity cards supported by PIN verification. See Access Control Guidance on page 21.

Security passes

If a staff pass system is in place, insist that staff wear their passes at all times and that their issuing is strictly controlled and regularly reviewed. Visitors to private areas should be escorted and should wear clearly marked temporary passes, which must be returned on leaving. Anyone not displaying security passes in private areas should either be challenged or reported immediately to security or management. Consider introducing a pass system if you do not have one already.

Screening and Patrolling

The screening of hand baggage is a significant deterrent that may be a suitable protective security consideration for your cinema or theatre.

Routine searching and patrolling of premises represents another level of vigilance; covering both internal and external areas. Keep patrols regular, though not too predictable (i.e. every hour on the hour). See Search Planning on page 29.

Traffic and parking controls

If you believe you might be at risk from a vehicle bomb, the basic principle is to keep all vehicles at a safe distance. Those requiring essential access should be identified in advance and checked before being allowed through. If possible, you should ensure that you have proper access control, careful landscaping, traffic-calming measures, and robust well-lit barriers or bollards. Ideally, keep non-essential vehicles at least 30 metres from your building.

For site specific advice and guidance you should contact your local police CTSA. See also Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices on page 43.

Doors and windows

Good quality doors and windows are essential to ensure building security. External doors should be strong, well-lit and fitted with good quality locks. Doors that are not often used should be internally secured ensuring compliance with relevant fire safety regulations and their security monitored with an alarm system. **This is particularly important to those cinemas and theatres that have an external search / screening operation in order to prevent unauthorised entry and bypassing any search regime.**

- As a minimum accessible windows should be secured with good quality key operated locks. The police may provide further advice on improving the security of glazed doors and accessible windows.

- Many casualties in urban terrorist attacks are caused by flying glass, especially in modern buildings and glazing protection is an important casualty reduction measure.

- Extensive research has been carried out on the effects of blast on glass. There are technologies that minimise shattering and casualties, as well as the costs of re-occupation.

- Anti-shatter film, which holds fragmented pieces of glass together, offers a relatively cheap and rapid improvement to existing glazing. If you are installing new windows, consider laminated glass, but before undertaking any improvements seek specialist advice through your police CTSA or visit www.cpni.gov.uk for further details.

Integrated security systems

Intruder alarms, CCTV and lighting are commonly used to deter crime, detect offenders and delay their actions. All these systems must be integrated so that they work together in an effective and co-ordinated manner.

Intrusion detection technology can play an important role in an integrated security system; it is as much a deterrent as a means of protection. If police response to any alarm is required, your system must be compliant with the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) security systems policy (www.acpo.police.uk). For further information, contact the Alarms Administration Office at your local police headquarters.

Using CCTV can help clarify whether a security alert is real and is often vital in post-incident investigations, but only if the images are good enough to identify what happened and be used in court.

External lighting provides an obvious means of deterrence as well as detection, but take into account the impact of additional lighting on your neighbours. If it is carefully designed and used, external lighting will help security staff and improve the capabilities of CCTV systems.

Remember that CCTV is only effective if it is properly monitored and maintained.