



Northamptonshire Police / EMSOU-SB Counter Terrorism Aide Memoire / Briefing Note

Event Security

The protection of crowded places is a key priority within the UK counter terrorism strategy. Crowded places include entertainment centres, restaurants, bars, hotels and sporting venues and events, all of which could be considered attractive targets by terrorist groups. In Europe and more recently the UK, we have seen terrorists specifically attacking 'soft targets' with devastating consequences.

As a member of the event support team you will play a key role in ensuring the safety and security of everyone involved before, during and after the event. You will be our eyes and ears on the ground and we depend on information from yourselves and the public - your support is vital to the success of the event.

Raising Awareness

Following the Manchester attack on 22nd May, the threat level to the UK from international terrorism was raised to '**Critical – an attack is expected imminently**', as it was considered likely that a terrorist cell was at large. Following significant progress with the investigation and multiple arrests, the threat level was reduced back down to '**Severe – an attack is highly likely**'. The recent attack at London Bridge/Borough Market, despite being a coordinated attack, did not change the overall threat level.

There is currently no intelligence to suggest that any locations or events in Northants are the subject of terrorist attack planning, however, large public events are considered attractive targets and there is no room for complacency.

The level of threat is complex and ranges from lone actors intent on carrying out crude attacks to sophisticated networks pursuing ambitious and coordinated plots. The most likely method of attack in the UK is a lone actor carrying out an unsophisticated, spontaneous attack, using a blunt instrument such as a vehicle and bladed weapons. However, the recent terrorist attack in Manchester demonstrated a higher level of sophistication. The following national guidance is provided to assist your respective organisations in raising awareness with staff and contractors.

Be Alert, not Alarmed

In addition to pursuing terrorists and preventing others from becoming violent extremists, the police and security services carry out daily activities to increase the protection and security of our citizens, public institutions, critical national infrastructure, businesses and public places, including those that are considered potential terrorist targets. This concerted effort, which includes highly visible, covert, armed or technical methods, is aimed at protecting the public from the threat of terrorism, boosting the security of key sites, reassuring businesses, workers and visitors so they can go about their daily lives, and making the UK a hostile environment for terrorists to operate in. Our measures and activities are constantly reviewed to reflect where the threats exist and the level of threat the country is facing, remember "**Don't worry, don't delay, just ACT – Action Counters Terrorism**".

Be Vigilant and Report Suspicious Behaviour

Police act on information from the public who report suspicious behaviour. During the event be on the look-out for anything out of the ordinary. You know when something looks unusual, out of place, when someone is behaving suspiciously, such as;

- Vehicles parked in restricted areas, obstructing the event or driving erratically, especially near 'vulnerable' areas, or where there are large crowds
- Anyone at the event who is clearly not participating; perhaps they are more interested in you, the police or their accomplices?

"Don't worry, don't delay, just ACT"

Contact the Police on 101 or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 or gov.uk/ACT.



- Anyone taking notes or photos of security arrangements, or inspecting CCTV cameras before the start of the event
- Anyone leaving personal items such as rucksacks or bags near to key locations; are they being deliberately hidden from view (see H.O.T. principles below)?

Plan now what you will do to STAY SAFE

Firearms and Weapons attacks are rare in the UK. The 'STAY SAFE' principles tell you some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a weapons or firearm attack:-

'Stay Safe' principles (Run Hide Tell) give some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a weapons or firearms attack. Full guidance is contained on the NaCTSO website.

RUN: If there is a safe route run, if not hide, leave your belongings behind and insist others go with you. Do not congregate at evacuation points.

HIDE: Find cover from gunfire, lock yourself in a room if you can, move away from the door, be quiet and turn your phone to silent.

TELL: Dial 999 when you can, give location, direction and description of attackers. Keep out of the area and stop others entering if possible. Provide details of casualties, injuries and building or location information if possible.

Watch the RUN, HIDE, TELL online video, to stay safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film

Download the citizenAID™ app which is designed to guide the public to react safely, to pass effective messages to the emergency services, to prioritise the injured and to give life-saving first aid.

www.citizenaid.org

Suspicious Packages – H.O.T Assessment Principles

In order to establish if an item is suspicious, carry out the following dynamic assessment:

HIDDEN: Is it obviously hidden, has someone deliberately tried to conceal it?

OBVIOUS: Is it obviously out of place and out of context for its environment? Are there any wires, switches, batteries or components visible?

TYPICAL: Is it typical of an item usually seen in the environment?

Considerations

- No mobile phones / radios to be used within 15 meters of a suspicious item
- Minimum cordon distance for small item such as rucksack or bag is 100 meters (length of a football pitch)
- Minimum cordon distance for a small car is 200 meters
- Minimum cordon distance for a van or lorry is 400 meters

We advise the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or activity to the local Police on **101 or confidential **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** on **0800 789 321**.**

However in an **emergency** always call **999**.

Additional information and Guidance

For more information and advice on protecting events, businesses, organisation and communities from the terrorist threat visit the following websites;

www.gov.uk/ACT

www.NaCTSO.gov.uk

www.cpni.gov.uk

www.m15.gov.uk

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