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SAFEGUARDING YOUR BUSINESS IN PUBLIC EVENT SCENARIOS

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STAY ALERT

In large **public gatherings**, there's always a risk that a small group might instigate disturbances. Even peaceful protests have the potential to turn into violent situations. During such times of public demonstrations and social unrest, businesses often encounter heightened risks. These situations can pose **threats to employee safety, disrupt business operations**, and lead to property damage.



Protect People



Incident Plan



Communicate



CCTV

PROTECT PEOPLE

In the lead-up to public events or during times of civil unrest and volatile demonstrations, it's crucial to thoroughly brief your staff. Communicate your concerns, stress the importance of being aware of their surroundings, and offer clear instructions to safeguard both employees and customers.

- **Advise employees** to steer clear of city centers and potential protest sites. Encourage remote meetings to minimise travel to these areas.
- **Stay prepared for travel disruptions.** Regularly check updates from local authorities, news outlets, and social media for information on road and rail closures.
- For those required to be on-site, consider a casual dress code. **Advise against wearing company-branded clothing**, especially if your business is in sectors often targeted by protestors, like finance or e-commerce.
- Make sure all staff are well-versed in the **company's emergency response**, security measures, and evacuation and invacuation protocols.
- Request employees to **keep their contact details current** for easy communication.
- Maintain a strong and visible management presence on your business premises. **Management should be prepared** to interact with law enforcement in case of trespassing or criminal activities.
- Encourage vigilance among all staff members and **prompt reporting** of any unusual or suspicious activities to security personnel or the police.

SAFEGUARDING BUSINESS PREMISES

Most events, demonstrations, and protests occur peacefully, but in areas of unrest, there's a risk of property damage, looting, and arson. Implement these measures to protect your business premises:

- If **operating during large events** where disorder isn't expected, limit entry and exit points. This controls access and allows staff or security to secure the premises if tensions escalate. Be aware that some events may attract individuals intent on causing unrest for opportunistic theft. Remove high-value items from window displays where possible.
- Regularly review and **update your Business Continuity and Incident Management Plans**. If you don't have a plan, now is the time to create one, using resources from public websites or professional consulting firms.
- **Stay alert** to the rapid organisation of activist events via social media, which may require swift adjustments to business operations.
- **Keep informed** by following social media accounts of local police, government, and trusted media for the latest updates.
- If you have **security personnel**, brief them on potential disruptions and ensure they are visible as a deterrent.
- Conduct **site-specific assessments** for buildings likely to be exposed to protest activity, identifying and mitigating risks.
- Verify that staff are **first aid trained**, first aid kits are fully stocked, and communication radios are operational with spare batteries.
- Ensure your **CCTV system is functional**

MANAGING BUSINESS OPERATIONS DURING PROTESTS

In the event of a protest affecting your business area, it's important to promptly assess the following aspects:

- **Analyse** how the protest is influencing your business or organisation. Consider factors like reduced customer footfall and potential loss of business.
- **Evaluate the impact** on your employees, customers, and other stakeholders. Key considerations include disruptions to work/life balance, challenges in staff commuting, dependence on public transport, and issues with deliveries.
- **Estimate the financial and non-financial costs** of these impacts. This includes comparing the financial repercussions to a typical business day and considering environmental factors like waste collection delays and increased traffic congestion.
- **If protesters enter your business premises**, avoid shutting down operations. Closing the business can hinder police efforts to make arrests for Aggravated Trespass, as the protesters are no longer obstructing business activities, thus eliminating a crucial element for legal action.

ALWAYS REPORT CRIME TO THE POLICE

It's crucial to **always report crimes** to the police. This enables them to gather data and gain a comprehensive understanding of the crime's extent, which is vital for allocating resources and devising strategies to combat it.

In emergency situations where a crime is actively occurring, **call 999 immediately.**

For **non-emergency** incidents, you can contact the police **on 101.**

Alternatively, crimes can be reported online at **www.police.uk.**

Enhance your knowledge of counter-terrorism measures by accessing the award-winning eLearning courses available on Protect UK. For more information, head over to **<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/>.**

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