

Surface Transportation Security Awareness Message



ATTENTION—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION OWNER/OPERATORS

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend and the summer holiday season, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is issuing this Security Awareness Message (SAM) to our industry partners. This message is not in response to any specific threat. With the approaching holiday and summer season, there will be outdoor events and gatherings that could be potential targets for homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) and lone offenders, especially in high-density public areas. Soft targets, such as crowded venues, are attractive to these individuals. There have been notable recent attacks utilizing vehicle ramming as a tactic against crowded places and other soft targets. Currently, there is no specific intelligence indicating imminent threats to surface transportation within the United States.

Recommended Actions:

- Review plans and procedures for restricting vehicular access to areas where large numbers of people congregate for events or transit to events.
 - Assess routes, transit locations, and transportation modes for vulnerabilities.
- Review plans and procedures for vehicular security to prevent unauthorized access and use of vehicles.
 - Consider whether fixed or temporary vehicle barriers are needed.
- Review reporting procedures and ensure employees have updated instructions and contact information for company security personnel, local law enforcement, and the [local FBI field office](#) to facilitate timely reporting of suspicious activities.
- Remind employees to be aware of any suspicious inquiries or activities and report in accordance with company policy.

Resources:

- Review of Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency's "[Mass Gatherings: Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places](#)" resource guide and Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's "[Vehicle Incident Prevention and Mitigation Security Guide](#)"
 - Utilize these guides as operational tools and training modules to enhance detection capabilities for potential vehicle-ramming attack plots and to identify and report suspicious activities.
- For further information on vehicle ramming threats, refer to the [Homeland Security Information Network \(HSIN\)](#), which includes:
 - Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT)'s First Responder's Toolbox: *Large Public Gatherings Attractive Targets for Violent Extremists*
 - Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's *Vehicle Ramming Predictive Analysis: Indicators and Future Risk Factors*
- TSA's Surface Information Sharing Cell (SISC) is a domestic (US only) surface transportation threat information-sharing and knowledge-management cell focusing on physical and cyber threats involving all surface transportation modes. For more information and to join, see the attached SISC Fact Sheet and email: siscops@tsa.dhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership in maintaining heightened situational awareness and operational readiness during this peak holiday travel period.

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