



**A.C.T. NATIONAL**  
Health & Safety

**Terrorism in the UK - Simple Advice**

[www.actnational.co.uk](http://www.actnational.co.uk)



*Professional • Competent • Ethical*

## Introduction

Recent terrorist attacks show that any kind of crowded place may become a terrorist target. However, there is NO REASON to believe that any particular event or building is at risk. The guidance given here is designed to assist you in strengthening your defences to prevent attack and in being more resilient should an attack actually occur.

Everyone should stay alert, the chances of a terrorist incident are still extremely remote, but it does make sense to take whatever simple steps you can to prevent and prepare.



The best form of defence is to prevent an attack before it starts. Terrorists usually scope out a target in the days before an attack. This might include taking photos of CCTV positions or barriers, asking questions about security and so on. You may not be at a particular venue or event very long, but stay vigilant to suspicious behaviour or things which are out-of-place. Make a note of any details and report it.

### A FALSE ALARM IS BETTER THAN AN INCIDENT!

Although some recent attacks have involved armed assailants and vehicles, explosive devices hidden in venues remains a threat (e.g. Boston Marathon). Stay vigilant regarding unknown people in secure areas, packages, unauthorised vehicles, or bags left in the wrong place.

Use the **HOT** protocol. Has the object been deliberately **H**idden?, is there an **O**bvious threat? (wires and a timer), is it **T**ypical? – we don't want you calling in every bag or case, but having said that, your cases and personal bags should all be clearly marked and identifiable. Most staff and crew take a backpack to work or to an event – just like the Boston bombers did. How can anyone tell the difference if you don't tag yours somehow? Should you not be considering issuing a security tag for personal bags?



www.gov.uk/nactso

**IT'S  
PROBABLY  
NOTHING,  
BUT...**

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING THAT COULD BE TERRORIST RELATED, TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS AND CALL THE CONFIDENTIAL **ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE**. OUR SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE.

**0800 789 321**  
YOUR CALL COULD SAVE LIVES

 **NPCC**  
National Police Chiefs' Council

## **PLAN & PREPARE**

The key is to spend a few minutes thinking about what you would do if there were a crisis. Discuss with your team, but keep it proportionate. A simple and reliable plan is all you need. If you are an event organiser, have the conversation with the venue about emergency plans. If it is your office building or venue, make sure your plans are up to date, relevant and are communicated to those in your venue.

Make sure you have a channel to communicate between your team, and with the wider venue. Sometimes all the conversations are about day to day matters – but we have to widen the conversation to include our collective duty to protect everyone inside the venue or the building.

Events have great tools to give information to the public – there may be a PA and screens; so how can you turn these to your advantage if there is an emergency? Who can make an announcement?, what will you say?, where is the microphone?, how do we get a holding slide up on a screen? These are easy things to sort in advance and should be part of the daily routine of being prepared.

We have seen instances where the emergency is inside a building, and we need to get people out. But it might also be that an attack is outside (as at the Stade de France, Paris), and we need to hold people for their own safety. In that kind of instance a PA and video screens may be hugely important tools, performing a function the regular building alarm cannot do. Think about it. Have the discussion. **PLAN & PREPARE !**





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An information film that provides advice on the steps to take to keep safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack is available by clicking [here](#).

Recent events around the world remind us all of the terrorist threat we face, which in the UK is considered as 'CRITICAL', meaning an attack is imminent. Police and security agencies work tirelessly to protect the public but it is also important that communities remain vigilant and are aware of how to protect themselves if the need arises.

The four minute film, Stay Safe: Firearms and Weapons Attack, sets out three key steps for keeping safe. The film is accompanied by an online information leaflet.

The message is clear - if you are caught up in an incident, you 'run, hide and tell' - guidance which can be applied to many places and situations.



**IN THE RARE EVENT OF**  
a firearms or weapons attack

**RUN HIDE TELL**



**RUN** to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...

**HIDE.** It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so...

**TELL** the police by calling 999.



**A.C.T. NATIONAL**  
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A.C.T. (National) Ltd  
Pomfret Business Centre  
Harropwell Lane  
Pontefract  
West Yorkshire  
WF8 1QY



Tel: 01977 797359

E: [mail@theactgroup.net](mailto:mail@theactgroup.net)

Web: [www.actnational.co.uk](http://www.actnational.co.uk)

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