

OPERATION SECURE

"protecting properties, securing lives"

LOGAN SECURITY & INVESTIGATION SERVICES
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Certified in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design



About the Firm

Logan Security & Investigation Services is a professional security and forensic investigation consulting firm focused on making the built-environment more secure and safer for its users. Having specialized knowledge and experience in environmental criminology, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, physical and operational security, architecture, and construction, LSIS has a unique understanding and appreciation for how the built-environment contributes to the occurrences of criminal behavior and critical incidents.

Contact Information

If you or your business is interested in learning more about Physical Security Principles, contact us directly. LSIS can help.

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PHYSICAL SECURITY PRINCIPLES:

Understanding and Implementing Security Measures and Applications

Security, in its basic form, is an idea most often taken for granted. Historically speaking, most Americans have believed the United States to generally be a safe place to live, work, and play. I personally recall as a young child being free to roam throughout the neighboring communities where I lived, after dark, without the fear of being abducted or assaulted. I also recall attending a number of schools without ever being concerned of a schoolmate bringing a gun into the building and going on a shooting frenzy. At no time during the first 30 years or so of my life did I ever worry that upon boarding a commercial airline the plane would be taken over by terrorists then used as a weapon of mass destruction.

In the wake of horrific events such as the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers, and the numerous shootings plaguing our schools, churches, and movie theaters, the feelings of

being safe in our environment, even if only perceived, have long since passed. No longer can the average American simply enjoy the multitude of freedoms once offered by our great Nation without at the very least considering the possibility that: *this might be the last day I go to work; this might be the last time I see my children, or this might be the day the Nation falls.* Accordingly, Americans are becoming more aware and sensitive to the idea and application of security measures in their everyday lives.

Concepts of security can vary depending on the desires of the entity or individual requiring security, the types of risks and or threats involved, and the level of protection sought. When considering security concepts for protection of assets for example, methods of establishing physical security applications become the logical approach. Physical security generally includes the implementation of tangible impediments to mitigate attacks and or unauthorized entry into otherwise secure areas. (Katz & Caspi, 2003)

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Thinking Points:

1. Does your place of business, school, or church have physical security measures in place to prevent illegitimate entry?
2. Do you know who your neighbors are and whether or not they place you at risk?
3. What environmental physical characteristics make you vulnerable to an attack?
4. Are you aware of the physical security measures in place within your environment(s)?

"The concept of building security is generally based on the ability to identify threats and vulnerabilities, in an endeavor to determine the most viable methods for protecting people, buildings, assets, and in continuing critical operations."

(Nadel, 2004)

Physical security and the protection of assets more often than not involve the securing of buildings and their related facilities. Prior to the implementation of specific physical security measures, it is first necessary to develop a complete understanding of a building's characteristics so that effective and efficient security solutions may be identified. This is most often accomplished through the performance of a risk assessment and physical security survey. Upon completion of these analyses, specific means and measures regarding certain security protocols can then be formulated.

Are we at risk?

Prior to the implementation of any type of physical security measure, it is first necessary to determine what, if any, risks actually exist. This is typically accomplished through the performance of a Risk Assessment. A Risk Assessment is generally a rational and orderly approach in identifying problems and determining probabilities of occurrence. (Broder, 2000) When performing a Risk Assessment, there are a myriad of factors that should be considered such as the type and nature of the business or organization, location of the building and related facilities, political position(s) and or affiliations, and the history of criminal and or other offensive activities in the area, just to mention a few. (Katz, et al., 2003) Other environmental factors such as the types

and locations of neighboring businesses or organizations, and site characteristics should also be considered.

Upon completion of the Risk Assessment, a Security Assessment should then be performed. The process of a Security Assessment provides a snapshot view of threats and other potential factors while assessing a number of areas such as:

- Identification of critical assets
- Threat assessment
- Security survey
- Vulnerabilities
- Development of recommendations, security upgrades, and mitigation strategies
- Refinement of solutions (Nadel, 2004)

Security Applications

The concept of building security is generally based on the ability to identify threats and vulnerabilities, in an endeavor to determine the most viable methods for protecting people, buildings, assets, and in continuing critical operations. (Nadel, 2004) The fundamental goals for implementing successful security applications are mitigating, if not preventing altogether, certain damages resulting from terrorist and or criminal attacks. Secondary functions of proper security applications include identification of the offenders in the event an incident does occur.

Successful building security comprises much more than simply securing the building itself. Special attention must be given to the environmental surroundings of the building perimeter to ensure the best security standards possible. Grounds security for example includes establishing zones-of-control, in an effort to maintain safe distances between identified threats and the assets to be protected. This distance is commonly referred to as the "stand-off" distance.

The zones-of-control generally include (1) perimeter, (2) exclusive zone, and (3) non-exclusive zone. Each zone offers varying levels of protection and security. The perimeter generally includes just that, the exterior perimeter of the grounds where the building and or assets are located. Perimeter security systems such as smart fences offer simple and practical barriers while also offering alert notifications if a perimeter breach occurs. (Katz, et al., 2003)

An exclusive zone generally includes the exterior area(s) directly adjacent to the building that are under exclusive control of the building, while non-exclusive zones include areas such as public right-of-ways and or areas common to multiple buildings. (FEMA, 2003)

In addition to security master planning, technological advances in security offer greater opportunity to ensure the protection of assets. Access control systems for example allow businesses and organizations to control those entering a building by establishing preauthorization facilities. Biometric technologies such as voice scans and or

face scans provide reasonably secure methods for preventing illegitimate entry. Additional technological advances include state-of-the-art intrusion detection and monitoring systems such as closed-circuit television for video surveillance operations. Although there is some debate over the level of security benefits offered by such measures, video surveillance is considered invaluable for forensic endeavors and evidence collection. (Barr, 2005)

Conclusion

America, within the past several decades, has become a place where safety and security is questionable at best. Whether at an individual level or as part of a larger organization, it has become apparent that no place is safe without the implementation of proper security measures.

The level of security applications necessary to ensure safety varies depending on a number of factors. Identification of vulnerabilities requires that comprehensive risk assessments and security surveys be performed so that viable solutions can be developed and implemented.

Building security is a primary concern for many businesses and organizations faced with real threats of attack. In order to ensure viable security solutions, it is necessary to assess the building from the outside-in, considering all exterior zones along with the facility perimeter. Security applications such as perimeter smart fences, access control systems and intrusion detection systems all offer potential methods for securing and protecting critical assets.

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About the Author

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