

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

Florida Fusion Center 19-180

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Public Assembly and Outdoor Events

Criminal Activity

Florida is home to many public assembly venues and outdoor events including theme parks, arenas, stadiums, parades, and convention centers. These venues may be attractive targets for criminal activity due to the increased economic activity and large crowds present.

1. **Robbery and Theft** – Public and outdoor events like sporting activities, music events, or parades, typically attract large crowds of people who may leave vehicles, bags, and other belongings unattended. These items could make attractive targets for theft.
 - [Why City Crime Spikes During Home Football Games](#)
2. **Drug Sales and Usage** – Drug use occurs at many concerts and music festivals and could pose a risk to those in attendance. Drugs cut with toxic and dangerous substances may also be sold at these events, which can contribute to erratic behavior and overdoses.
 - [This is How Music Festivals Can Stop Encouraging Drug Abuse](#)
 - [Music Fans' Drugs Turn Up in the Craziest Places](#)
3. **Human Trafficking** – Some studies indicate large public events, like political conventions or national sporting events, may increase human trafficking in the surrounding areas.
 - [Study Takes Look at How Big Events Fuel U.S. Sex Trafficking](#)
 - [Super Bowl, Political Conventions Among Top Events that Attract Sex Trafficking](#)

Terrorist Activity

Public assembly and outdoor events also have the potential to be targeted for terror attacks due to the large crowds and media attention they attract. Though screening measures are often implemented to mitigate terrorist threats to the public, attempts may still be made.

1. **Mass Shootings** – In July 2019, a man opened fire at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California killing 3 and injuring 15. The alleged gunman reportedly cut through fencing to enter the event.
 - [Gilroy Garlic Festival Shooting Being Investigated as Domestic Terrorism by FBI](#)



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2. **Explosive Device Attacks** – In May 2017, a man detonated a homemade explosive device at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, United Kingdom, as people were leaving the concert; 22 people were killed and over 100 were injured.

- [Manchester Arena Suicide Bombing: 22 Die at Ariana Grande Concert](#)

The following links provides resources and training developed by the Department of Homeland Security to improve security and implement protective measures at soft target locations.

[Check It! Employee Training for Bag Searches](#)

[Securing Soft Targets and Crowded Places](#)

The following flyer provides indicators that may be of use in identifying suspicious activity and potential indicators of pre-attack mobilization.

[Indicators or Terrorist Activities Related to Amusement Parks, Mass Gatherings, or Camp Grounds](#)

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