

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.

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BusinessSafe Highlight – Sports Leagues Subsector

The Commercial Facilities Sector includes a diverse range of environments that draw large crowds of people for shopping, business, entertainment or lodging. Included in the Commercial Facilities Sector is the Sports Leagues Subsector, which includes major sports leagues, conferences, associations, and federations. Sports venues have been and will continue to be locations where criminal activity is likely to occur. Large-scale events tend to draw significant crowds, which increases the likelihood of criminal acts being committed. Commentators, owners, spectators, and employees of these sports leagues should be aware of the threats presented to the subsector and also be prepared to mitigate potential risks.

Threats

1. **Targeted Violence** – Armed attackers at [sports events](#) are [difficult to predict](#) or prevent. Attackers have been known to use explosive devices to cause mass casualties and property damage. Open public access, particularly at outdoor events or facilities with limited screening, makes many facilities particularly vulnerable to explosives. Combating this threat requires planning and resources, such as conducting outreach and providing training material. Also, information sharing between the commercial facility staff and federal, state, and local security partners is crucial.
2. **Theft** -- Sporting events can be affected by a range of theft and scam related crime. [Organized theft](#) of products and goods that are resources to sports leagues can debilitate the organizations affected. Also, criminals can [scam](#) consumers during ticket transactions, compromising their identity and financial information.
3. **Cyberattacks** – Sports leagues use the internet for marketing, merchandising, ticketing and reservations. According to the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre, 70% of sports organizations have faced at least one [cyberattack](#) per year. A mass communication or server failure leading to internet disruption could cause cascading economic effects for sports organizations. [Cyberattacks](#) could also cause a loss of operations for financial transactions, giving the criminals access to customer credit card accounts, financial information, and private information.
4. **Natural Disasters** -- Increasingly severe weather events, including storms, earthquakes, floods, and droughts, can cause significant property and economic [damage](#), threaten safety of employees and guests, and restrict access to critical resources such as power, water, transportation, and food supplies.



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How to Prepare

- Increase awareness among facility and event managers and law enforcement agencies.
- Reduce vulnerabilities of sporting event facilities and their respective critical assets, like team members, spectators, etc.
- Exercise and enhance attack prevention, response, and recovery mechanisms.
- Better prepare event staff and supporting public safety entities to respond to and resolve incidents.
- Conduct the appropriate facility/event threat assessment.

Resources

- The Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)) offers resources regarding sports venues.
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)) offers a sector-specific plan for the Commercial Facilities Sector, which includes the Sports Leagues Subsector.
- [CISA](#) also offers a protective measure guide for U.S. sports leagues.
- The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners ([ACFE](#)) offers resources on how to avoid sporting event ticket fraud.
- “If You See Something, Say Something” – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using Florida’s [See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#) or by calling 1-855-FLA-SAFE.



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