

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 Subsector Highlight: Outdoor Events

Outdoor events are an important part of the Florida leisure and entertainment business community. This subsector consists of a variety of businesses like theme parks, fairs, parades, marathons, exhibitions, and others. These events can be open to the public or require an admission fee with the majority being privately organized and operated. Florida is home to multiple outdoor events attracting millions of visitors from around the world. While businesses take many precautions to ensure safety and security, the potential for mass gatherings may prompt criminal and terrorist actors to target these events to commit theft or harm others.

Criminal Activity:

- **Theft** – Outdoor events often attract large crowds which could be used as an advantage for criminal actors to steal unattended items like bags, phones, and keys, or to pickpocket attendees. Additionally, many outdoor retailers and vendors may experience equipment and goods theft either from coordinated theft rings or single criminal actors. Tactics targeting businesses can include retail theft at vendors inside the event area during operating hours or insider threat.

[Multiple acts of vandalism, theft at Fairgrounds area of Garden City](#)

[DeSoto fair leadership arrested for grand theft](#)

Targeted Violence:

- **Bombings and Mass Shootings** – Event organizers make efforts to secure these locations and provide safe outdoor events for attendees. Still, the high number of attendees compounded with the size and locations of some events may increase the difficulty of preventing criminal or terrorist actors from targeting these events to harm attendees.

[Blasts at Boston Marathon Kill 3 and Injure 100](#)

[6 dead, 30 hurt in shooting at Chicago-area July 4 parade](#)

- **Vehicle Ramming** – While often a less common tactic used to target the Outdoor Events Subsector in the U.S., criminal or terrorist actors may still use vehicle ramming as a tactic to cause mass harm.

[A sixth victim has died after the Waukesha Christmas parade crash, prosecutors say](#)

[Berlin Christmas market: 12 dead, 48 hospitalized in truck crash](#)



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Other Threats or Hazards:

- **Natural Hazards** – Storms can spawn quickly and suddenly disrupt outdoor events. Outdoor events are particularly vulnerable to these hazards due to the lack of cover. The transient nature of events like parades and fairs make them especially vulnerable to natural hazard related issues.

[Sudden storm causes damage and injuries at York State Fair](#)

[Severe storm left guests temporarily trapped on rides at Canada's Wonderland after power outage](#)

Resources:

- **“If You See Something, Say Something®”** – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website using [Florida's See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#), via the Florida See Say app, or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides information on how to [secure public gatherings](#) as well as information on [vehicle ramming attack mitigation](#).
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offers an extensive list of [security resources](#) for event planners and hosts to consult when organizing large scale public events. DHS also provides an [informational video](#) regarding security measures at public venues.



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