

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 21-016

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Sports Leagues Subsector

The sports leagues subsector consists of professional sports leagues and federations that hold large-scale events throughout the year using indoor and outdoor venues. While COVID-19 restrictions on attendance have impacted many sporting events this past year, Florida has recently hosted several major sporting events and others are scheduled in major cities. This includes Super Bowl LV which will be held in Tampa, Florida, on February 7, 2021.

Criminal Activity

Sports venues have 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. The types of criminal acts can range from selling fraudulent tickets and fake merchandise to human trafficking. Other concerns include people concealing drugs or weapons and bringing them to events.

- Fraudulent Tickets and Sporting Merchandise** – Criminal actors continually try to sell fraudulent tickets in-person or via online websites. These tickets are likely to appear legitimate, but are determined to be not authentic when scanned at the venue. Others have been known to create and sell fake merchandise (shirts, hats, flags) with fraudulent sports leagues' logos.

[Federal Authorities Seize Over \\$123 Million Worth of Counterfeit Super Bowl Merchandise](#)
[Former White Sox Employees Charged in Fraudulent Ticket Sales Scheme](#)
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Drones** – UAS devices being flown above or around large sporting league events may pose a hazard to the facility, players or attendees. Some potential concerns include items being dropped by UAS, illegal filming of the event, or individuals being injured in the event of a crash. Some events are able to establish restrictions prohibiting the use of UAS; however, drones are likely to continue to be a concern.

[Florida man faces a year in prison for flying a drone during Super Bowl week](#)
[A Deluge of Drones Fly Over the 2019 Atlanta Super Bowl, Despite a Ban](#)
- Cyber Threats** – Cyberattacks are likely to continue to impact both sporting venues and leagues' players. Criminal actors may look to steal information about teams' athletes and employees or disrupt sporting events. Types of compromises include malware, ransomware



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and phishing emails. Recent attacks have led to delays entering facilities and monetary losses.

[Ransomware Attack Locked a Football Club's Turnstiles](#)
[Russia Planned Cyber-Attack on Tokyo Olympics, Says United Kingdom](#)

- **Human Trafficking** – Sex and labor trafficking are major concerns associated with large sporting events. These types of events tend to draw large crowds, which generally means more staff are needed at hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues. Victims may be sex trafficked, advertised, and moved from one location to another to avoid detection.
[20 Suspected Human Trafficking Victims Recovered in Super Bowl 54 \(Miami\) Crackdown](#)
[Federal Bureau of Investigation Arrested 169 Individuals in Metro Atlanta Super Bowl Sex Trafficking Sting, Several Children Recovered](#)
[Sex Trafficking Sting Operation at NCAA Tournament Final Four in Minneapolis Nets 58 Arrests](#)
- **Attacks Using Explosives** – While rare, explosives attacks can cause extensive damage to individuals and structures in a matter of seconds. The devices used to conduct these attacks are likely to be disguised in inconspicuous spaces until they are detonated.
[2013 Boston Marathon Bombing Caused Three Fatalities and at Least 264 Injuries](#)
[1996 Bombing at Olympics in Atlanta Kills One and Hurts 111 Others](#)

“If You See Something, Say Something®” – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911.
[Florida's See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#)

Resources

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides a variety of tools and resources related to security for large venues and sporting events.

[DHS – Sports Venue](#)
[DHS – Sports and Entertainment Venues Bombing Prevention Solutions](#)

Learn more about potential suspicious activity related to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Drones by using the link below.

[FDLE – UAS/Drone Tripwire](#)

Learn more about how to avoid sporting event ticket fraud by using the link below.

[ACFE - How to Avoid Ticket Fraud](#)

Learn more about how to safely attend sporting events during the COVID-19 pandemic by using the link below.

[CDC – Attending Sporting Events Considerations and Recommendations](#)

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