

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: Aviation

Eighteen years ago today, nineteen people associated with the foreign terrorist organization, al-Qaida, carried out four hijacking attacks on airplanes in the United States. The planes were flown into the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C, and crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The attacks resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people. The 9/11 attacks fundamentally changed the way the United States detects, combats, and responds to terrorist events. Although the aviation sector remains a potential target for terrorist attacks and criminal activity, enhanced security measures instituted since 9/11 continue to prevent attacks.

Criminal Activity

1. **Drones** – Drone activity is not permitted within a specified distance of critical infrastructure to prevent interference with infrastructure facility operations. Drones operating around airports and in unauthorized airspace may disrupt business operations and may impact public safety.
 - [Airports Scramble to Handle Drone Incidents](#)
 - [How Dangerous are Drones to Aircraft?](#)
2. **Security Breaches** – Preventing unauthorized access to secure aviation areas continues to be a concern for transportation security authorities. Many aviation facilities have addressed this concern through increased security measures including security cameras at all entrances and exits, increased perimeter patrols, and required security awareness training.
 - [Another Man Arrested After Breaching Airport Perimeter, Police Say](#)
3. **Human Trafficking** – Human traffickers often use commercial passenger flights for transporting victims. Civil aviation authorities have developed procedures and trainings to increase awareness of trafficking indicators amongst employees.
 - [7 Ways to Spot That Someone is Being Trafficked](#)
 - [The U.S. Department of Transportation's "Blue Lightning Initiative"](#)



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Terrorist Activity

Although there have been no successful attempts in destroying a U.S. aircraft since 9/11, individuals continue to target the aviation sector. Following the 9/11 attacks, airport security measures intensified to ensure increased screening of passengers and luggage.

1. **Small Arms Attacks** – In January 2017, a man used a firearm packed inside his checked luggage to open fire in the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida killing five people and injuring eight.
 - [The Day a Shooter Opened Fire at Fort Lauderdale Airport – and What's Happened Since](#)
2. **Improvised Explosive Devices** – In March 2019, three explosive devices were sent in packages to London City Airport, Heathrow Airport, and Waterloo Station in the United Kingdom. Although no one was hurt, the devices were deemed capable of igniting when opened by authorities.
 - [Apparent Homemade Explosives Found in London Transit Centers](#)

The following documents provide information on identifying suspicious activity and potential indicators of pre-attack mobilization related to aviation.

[Suspicious Activity Indicators Related to Aviation](#) (PDF)

[BusinesSafe Fact Sheet: Flight Schools](#) (PDF)

[BusinesSafe Fact Sheet: Helicopter Tours and Air Charter Companies](#) (PDF)

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