SECTION 646
Counter Threat Operations

Protecting New Zealand Crowded Places Strategy and Associated Documents

The release of these documents has placed owners and operators of crowded places firmly under the spotlight in terms of familiarising themselves and complying, folding this back into tradition health and safety documentation.

What Constitutes a Crowded Place:

Crowded places are locations that large numbers of people access easily and predictably. They include sporting arenas; transport hubs and public transport; buildings and offices; schools, shopping centres; restaurants, hotels, theatres and other entertainment venues; community festivals and markets; houses of worship; tourist attractions; and civic spaces. Crowded places also include open spaces like busy urban streets, parks and pedestrian malls.

A crowded place is not necessarily always crowded: the density of the crowd may vary between day and night, and between seasons; the crowd may be temporary (such as during sporting events, festivals, concerts or one-off events).

Specific Responsibilities:

Owners and operators of crowded spaces have responsibilities (page 9 of Strategy) that relate specifically to the counter threat arena, namely:
- Assessing the risks and vulnerabilities of their crowded place
- Implementing appropriate mitigations for risks at their crowded place
- Keeping mitigations in proportion with the risks to their crowded place
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the mitigations
- Reviewing the mitigations at appropriate times.

1 Where to Start:

The key word here is to adopt a proportional approach, the following three levels are written with that in mind.
If your business operations fall under the strategy, your first step is to complete the Protecting New Zealand's Crowded Places Self-Assessment tool. The following content is offered as a guide, at any stage of the process you have doubt or questions, don't hesitate to contact S646 – (64) 021 633 128 – contact@S646.com

Link to Self-Assessment Tool:
https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/crowdedplaces-self-assessment-30092020.pdf

If you score 30 or more you need to take additional steps, move to Level 2.

2 The Next Level:

If you are concerned you can take additional measures such as:
- Conduct a formal threat assessment (best completed by a Counter Threat Professional) which will identify all required actions for mitigation
- Review current systems such as:
  - Lockdown/shelter in place procedures
  - Generate threat response plans (violence/IED, active shooter/vehicle intrusion/hostage etc)
  - Bomb Threat checklist and training

- o   Most folk generate an adjunct that sits alongside existing health and safety to assist integration.
    If you do have the above – move to Level 3 and contact a professional.
- Monitor your social networks for any disturbing content that may raise concern, most perpetrators maintain an electronic footprint.
- Adopt a challenge mentality, encourage staff to challenge anything out of context or person acting suspiciously, if it feels unsafe to do so, notify authorities immediately.
- Review the content on your website, obviously you need to promote your business/event but there may be items that provide specific information that would aid the planning stage of an attack, that if removed or reworded will not affect promotion.
- Adopt overt/highly visible security measures demonstrating you are a hard target, most perpetrators conduct hostile reconnaissance, if you present as too difficult they may move on.
- Staff confidence training encompassing procedures/new strategy/hostile reconnaissance and response strategies to the various threats. Vigilance remains our greatest defense, training heightens vigilance and situational awareness.
- Scenario training on specific threats as relate to your business/event operations, particularly for key decision makers.

These are just a few easy to achieve examples of how you can harden your event or business, there are many more to be considered. If you still have doubts or questions persist, move to Level 3.

3 Engage a Professional Counter Threat Consultant to Assist:

If you still have concerns and want to take it to the next level consider engaging a consultant to work with you. It is important to note Counter Threat Operations within crowded places are different skill sets to routine security.
It's vital you engage a competent professional that specialises in counter threat operations that best fit your business perimeters.

An assessment process is currently underway to determine who can provide counter threat/counter terrorism Professional Consultant services in New Zealand. These Consultants have undergone a rigorous confirmation process to confirm their ability to operate in counter threat/counter terrorism.
A dedicated website housing the register of approved consultants is being developed concurrently with the assessment process, once complete a link will be provided allowing you to choose a consultant with total confidence.
Check back regularly or send me an email to be notified when the website goes live.

Useful Links to save you time:

Protecting New Zealand's Crowded Places
The Protecting our Crowded Places Strategy will be regularly updated and additional resources added, please use this link to stay current. https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/protecting-crowded-places-attack

National Terrorism Threat level
The national terrorism threat level is constantly reviewed and updated based on intelligence, it is available here

https://www.nzsis.govt.nz/our-work/counter-terrorism/national-terrorism-threat-level/

New Zealand's threat level is at **LOW - Terrorist attack is assessed as a realistic possibility**, anytime there is a change in threat levels it will be publicised, however you should check regularly.

Section 646 offers a range of services inclusive of threat assessments, target hardening, scenario training, document creation, penetration testing and onsite threat management

SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING
VIGILANCE REMAINS OUR GREATEST DEFENCE – APATHY OUR GREATEST ENEMY