ProtectUK

Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTA)

ProtectUK publication date
12/08/2020

Marauding terrorist attacks (MTA) are fast-moving, violent incidents where assailants move through a location aiming to find and kill or injure as many people as possible. Most deaths occur within the first few minutes of the attack, before police are able to respond.

Analysis of Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTA)

It is more important than ever that your organisation is aware of the heightened risks and adequately prepared for any potential attack.

MTAs can take many forms and include a combination of the following:

- A lone attacker, multiple attackers or multiple groups of attackers
- Arrival at a location on foot, in a vehicle or an attack perpetrated by insiders
- Entering without using force or forcing entry using an explosive device, a vehicle, coercion of someone with access, or a combination of these
- Attackers armed with bladed weapons, firearms, pipe bombs, petrol bombs, suicide vests or multiple weapons

Bladed weapon attacks progress less rapidly than those involving firearms since attackers must be within striking distance of their victims and expend more energy on each person.

New and detailed guidance is available providing information as to the range of measures that can be taken to minimise the impact of an attack and help save lives. These measures range from implementing simple changes to security processes and technical systems, to introducing new and sophisticated security systems.

The **Marauding terrorist attacks: Making your organisation ready** guidance discusses how your organisation can recognise an attack, take immediate action and facilitate the police.

It is most relevant to office buildings, including multiple tenancy buildings. However, the principles of the advice can be usefully applied to all types of locations including cinemas, hotels, hospitals, schools, shopping areas, shopping centres, stadiums, theatres, temporary event venues and transport hubs.

Basis of the MTA guidance

The MTA guidance has been written and based on:

- Extensive analysis of previous MTAs in the UK and elsewhere around the world
- Live simulations of marauding attacks involving hundreds of people to understand where responses can fail and test the effectiveness of training, procedures and security systems
- Reviews and discussions with businesses that have highlighted common issues

Introducing the MTA Guidance

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) has developed a series of guides to help your organisation assess the risk and implement a range of protective security mitigations.

These guides are based on analysis and learning from MTAs that have taken place, live simulations of attacks and exercises, and feedback undertaken with businesses.

The main guidance pieces are:

- **MTA: A Busy Reader's Guide to Making Your Organisation Ready**, which provides a high level summary of the key issues for senior managers
- **MTA: Making your organisation ready**, which is the principal guidance document setting out all of the protective security mitigations and considerations
- **MTA: Technical supplements**, providing further information of specific topics that are important to effective defences

Additionally, there is other guidance available:

- **Announcements** - alerting personnel using live and recorded announcements
- **Lockdown** - considerations for locking doors to delay and frustrate attackers
- **Physical Barriers to Delay and Discourage Attackers** – making the best use of low security features, such as doors
- **Active Delay Systems** – measures that can further delay the rate of progress of an attack
- **Preparing personnel** - developing a programme to raise awareness and provide training to staff
- **Working with police and other emergency services** - integrating your response with the emergency services and background on the emergency services' response to an MTA
- **Testing and Exercising** – detailing techniques to validate that your plans will work at the moment of need
- **ASCEND: Improving organisational response to marauding terrorist attacks** - a summary of key emerging themes from trials conducted between 2017 and May 2018

This NPSA-hosted guidance is available by the links on this webpage or on the NPSA's website. The guidance also contains checklists, contained in the documents, to help you establish next steps.

Further advice

For further information please contact your local police force Counter Terrorism Security Adviser or a

NPSA recognised security professional.

On the NPSA's What is a Marauding Terrorist Attack? webpage you can find information, videos and the following guides about MTAs:

- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Making your organisation ready
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: A busy reader's guide to making your organisation ready
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Announcements
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Active delay systems
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Working with police and other emergency services
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Testing and exercising
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Preparing personnel
- ASCEND - Improving organisation response to Marauding Terrorist Attacks
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Physical barriers to delay and discourage attackers
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks: Supplementary guidance - Lockdown

KEYWORDS

MTA
MARAUDING
ATTACK
ATTACK METHODOLOGY
THREAT ANALYSIS
TERRORIST THREAT
MARAUDING ATTACK
GUIDANCE
NPSA
COUNTER TERRORISM SECURITY ADVISORS
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