

## RELATED TERMS

- Incident Site Management
- Hard Perimeters
- Credentialing



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## PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Law Enforcement
- Fire
- Emergency Management

# BEST PRACTICE

## Incident Site Security: Perimeter Security Overview

### PURPOSE

This Best Practice provides an overview of perimeter security procedures during terrorist incidents.

### SUMMARY

This Best Practice discusses the importance of perimeter security procedures during responses to terrorist incidents. These procedures serve as the basis for effective site security and efficient emergency response. Perimeter security is essential for the successful site security, site safety, resource accountability, and other elements of incident site management.

### DESCRIPTION

Perimeter security encompasses isolation and access control of all sites associated with an emergency response. This may include:

- Incident command post (ICP)
- Staging area(s)
- Incident site(s)
- Dispatch center(s)
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (if applicable)
- Reception area(s) (if applicable)

The two core elements of perimeter security are outer perimeters procedures and credentialing procedures. *Outer perimeters* are physical barriers composed of fencing, concrete walling, or some other variety of barricade that denies or limits access to an incident scene. Outer perimeter procedures isolate the site from external influence, affording total access control under the aegis of a single response agency. *Credentialing procedures* control access to all response areas enclosed by outer perimeters and provide a mechanism to control inner perimeter access.

### ***Foundation of a General Response***

Effective perimeter security is a fundamental element of emergency response to terrorist incidents. It is essential for:

- **Ensuring the Efficacy of Command Structure:** The timely and efficient establishment of perimeter security enables the centralized command afforded by the Incident Command System.
- **Timely Access for Essential Personnel:** Effective perimeter security protocols ensure the timely access for essential personnel needed to execute a major incident response.

- **Protecting Responders and the Public:** Swift and effective scene control protects emergency responders from the dangers of secondary attacks. Perimeter security also keeps the public out of harm's way at incident scenes.
- **Preservation of Evidence:** Perimeter security aids emergency responders in the preservation of evidence for investigation of a terrorist incident.

Further, perimeter security enables effective site safety and resource accountability procedures, the other critical components of incident site management.

### ***Importance of Inter-agency Coordination***

Law enforcement units are responsible for perimeter security once they arrive on-scene. However, the first responders on-site, regardless of their organization or discipline, are responsible for isolating the incident site. Jurisdictions' perimeter security procedures should acknowledge this; response organizations must ensure their personnel are familiar with site isolation and perimeter security processes. The [Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness](#) (formerly the Office for Domestic Preparedness) includes [site security procedures](#) in its awareness- and performance-level guidelines for all emergency response personnel, including:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Service
- Emergency Medical Service
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Management
- Public Works

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