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Secondary Attacks: Ensuring the Safety and Security of Evacuees

SUMMARY

Jurisdictional emergency planners and private sector facility managers should work together to develop procedures for evacuating high profile targets. These procedures should ensure the safety and security of evacuees, with particular attention given to mitigating the threat of secondary attack or devices.

DESCRIPTION

On July 4, 2002, Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, a 41-year-old legal immigrant, attacked employees and customers at the El Al ticket counter in Los Angeles International Airport with two handguns and a hunting knife. Airport and law enforcement personnel responded immediately, securing the scene and evacuating the terminal.

The terminal evacuation was conducted in an efficient and orderly manner. However, travelers and airline/airport personnel were left to their own devices once they cleared the building. Many travelers gathered in a central, open area outside of the secure perimeter, directly adjacent to the location of the initial attack. This highly visible location, the dense crowding, and lack of a secure perimeter exposed them to the threat of secondary attack by sniper, pre-planted explosives, or suicide attack, among others.

Emergency planners and facility managers should develop evacuation plans and procedures for high-profile sites. Procedures must include mechanisms to provide for the safety and security of evacuees, particularly in relation to the threat of secondary attacks directed at groups of bystanders and/or evacuees. For more information on secondary attack procedures, please see *Lessons Learned Information Sharing Best Practice "Incident Site Security: Secondary Attacks."*

CITATION

Gunnar J. Kuepper. "Shooting at LAX on July 4, 2002: Lessons Learned." *International Association of Emergency Managers Bulletin*. October 2002.
(http://www.emergency-management.net/pdf/iaem/IAEM_Bulletin_October_2002.pdf)

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