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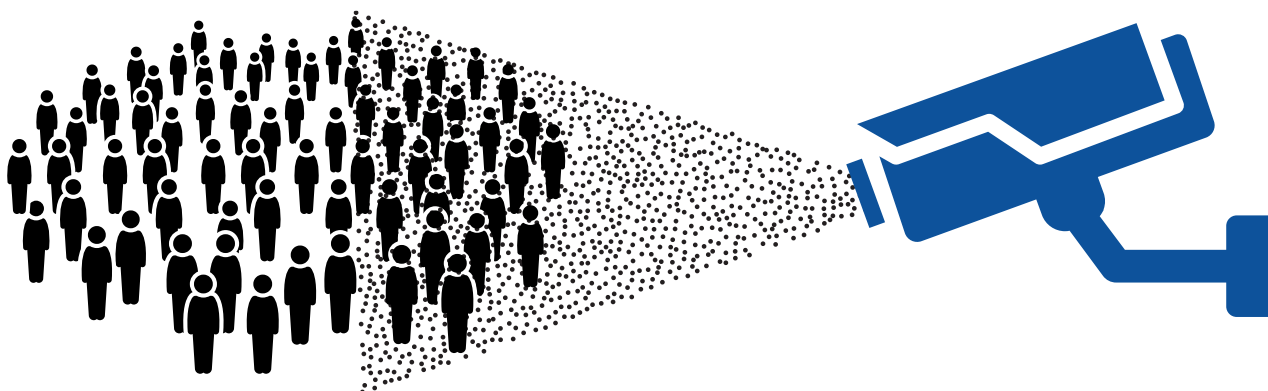## How to Protect Public Spaces During Events

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How to Protect Public Spaces During Events

Events generally face multiple security risks due to the high traffic volume of both individuals and vehicles present at one time, and not having the correct management in place could lead to a catastrophe.

However, navigating events in public spaces creates even further management challenges regarding security and as organisers, it's your responsibility to prepare for this and protect those involved.

So, whether it's a small-scale street party or large music festival, we delve into the dangers to events in public spaces and how to protect your event against them.

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What Are The Dangers to Events in Public Spaces?

Events alone in contained spaces face various challenges, however, when you transition them into public spaces, the risks only increase.

Public spaces are a much greater challenge when it comes to security due to their vast size, often open access and day-to-day functionality they are required for.

There are several security dangers to events in public spaces, including:

- Disorderly and ASB Behaviour
- Theft and Vandalism
- Crowd-Related Incidents
- Terrorism
- Infrastructure Damage
- Weather Risks
- Fire Hazards
- Traffic Control and Car Accidents
- Health Emergencies

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How to Protect Your Public Spaces at Events

Due to the vast challenges that events face in public spaces, it's vital that you enforce the best prevention and security measures in order to protect your event, employees and any attendees.

Although, every event is unique and has their own requirements, there are key steps you can take to protect your public spaces during an event:

1. Conduct a Thorough Risk Assessment of the Event and Public Space

2. Develop a Security Plan With the Safety Resources Required

3. Prepare an Emergency Response Team

4. Implement a Visible Criminal Deterrents at the Event

5. Install Mobile CCTV Systems Around the Perimeter of the Event

6. Utilise Remote Monitoring Services for Enhanced Events Security

7. Communicate and Coordinate With Local Authorities on the Event

8. Restrict Access Control to the Public Space

Conduct a Thorough Risk Assessment of the Event

Risk assessments can help establish the weak points and areas of concern regarding an event and the public space where they will be held.

Before running any event, there are key factors you need to consider in a security sense to ensure that the public space can manage it and is safe to do so:

- What permits and regulations will you need?
- Is the venue suitable for the event?
- How will you manage the crowd?
- What security measures will be required?
- How will you ensure your venue is accessible to all?
- What health and safety requirements for the event?
- How will you prepare for various weather conditions?
- Where will you receive power, water and other utilities from?
- How will transportation work to/from the event and support traffic flow?
- What communication methods will staff utilise at the event?

Develop a Security Plan With Safety Resources

Establishing your security plan in advance is a must for any event, particularly one in a public space where planning can be more difficult and decisions cannot just be made last minute.

You should begin developing your plan as early as possible to ensure you can prepare the resources you require to provide the safety and security to the event and any attendees.

Emergency response units and Police support will need to be informed beforehand and if you are considering implementing any security measure, you should explore your options to understand the best ones for you.

At this stage, you should speak to individuals and businesses about this, and if you've not created a plan before, you may wish to involve an external consultant who has supported on a project similar to yours.

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Prepare an Emergency Response Team

Health and safety at events, particularly in public spaces is important for many reasons; the safety of attendees, maintaining crowd control, protecting those external to the event and ensuring support in cases of emergencies.

Without the correct emergency response teams, your event could be understaffed and under supported in cases of emergencies and if this is allowed to occur, this could lead to negative consequences, including:

- Injuries and at worse, death of attendees and employees
- Poor crowd control like trampling and crushing
- Car accidents
- Poor business reputation caused by complaints
- Financial loss
- Loss of attendees

Coordinate with the emergency response teams within the area to organise a plan in advance and discuss the correct support required for the event.

Implement Visible Criminal Deterrents

Security risks such as terrorism, theft and trespassing will often begin on the external areas of your event and for those held in public spaces, there is an assumed lack of security that these criminals will take advantage of.

Therefore, you must implement visible criminal deterrents internally and externally of the event's premises to help present a show of force against this and prevent them from entering.

Physical deterrents such as perimeter fencing and security guards can be used on the external areas of the event. Patrolling the public space for any suspicious behaviour and making trespassing more difficult for any unauthorised individuals.

However, the human eye can only cover so much and with such high numbers of attendees, utilising mobile CCTV systems around the perimeter of your event could provide a visible boost in security at your site.
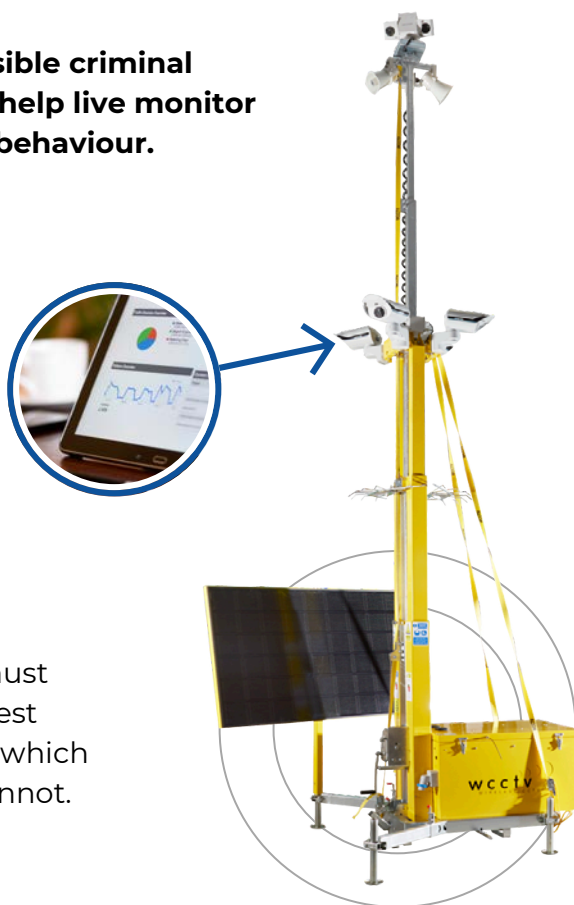
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Install CCTV Systems Around the Event

Mobile CCTV systems can help boost visible criminal deterrence at your event, but they also help live monitor and record your site for any suspicious behaviour.

For some advanced systems such as ourselves, we use Video Analytics to detect motion and monitor for even the smallest signs of danger to your site, including loitering.

The aim is to be proactive and reactive in your security approach, preventing and intervening active crime in order to stop it from impacting your event and any attendees.

With any event, it is important that you must remain vigilant, and mobile CCTV is the best possible way to provide those extras eyes which perimeter fencing and security guards cannot.

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Utilise Remote Monitoring for Enhanced Security

Remote monitoring services tend to involve a monitoring centre off-site tuning into and watching your CCTV's live feed, assessing threats and responding in a prompt, appropriate manner to them.

This allows you to remain proactive and reactive in your security approach, rather than having to work retrospectively to deal with any crime because at that point, it may be too late.

Live monitoring adds a proactive layer of security to your system, helping you minimise loss, reduce downtime and maintain full confidence that your event is protected.

Monitor road closures, junctions and diversion points overnight. Live operators help protect your staff, deter intrusion and manage incidents as they unfold.

Live monitoring transforms CCTV cameras from passive recording device into proactive security solutions for your events.

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WIRELESS CCTV

Communicate With Local Authorities on the Event

Permits will have been required in the first place to run an event in a public space, however, you should continue to cooperate with the Local Authorities during the planning and running of the event.

This will help you maintain the support and security you require throughout, and gain further suggestions on what can be done to boost the safety at your event.

Always keep in contact with those relevant as events require multiple agencies to work together in order to protect the event and anyone in attendance to this.

Restrict Access Control to the Public Space

Access control for events in general isn't simple, but for those in public spaces, managing this becomes an even greater challenge as intruders and criminals will utilise this element to access the site without permission.

Hence why you need to focus on restricting access control as best as possible to ensure that only those authorised can enter your event.

Access control options you could implement are as follows:

Increased security guards

Turnstiles at entrances

Ticket scanning devices

Wristbands for authorisation

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Contact Us

Wireless CCTV Ltd
James Watt House
James Watt Drive
Kingsway Business Park
Rochdale, OL16 4UG

T: +44 (0) 800 470 4630
E: sales@wcctv.com
E: support @wcctv.com

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