

Returning to Work Safely

Part I: The Importance of a Security Assessment



Is your organization safe to return to work?

The COVID-19 crisis presented countless challenges for businesses as they quickly adapted to changing circumstances. The same will be true during what is expected to be a gradual return to business activity. Of course, ensuring the security of people, assets and operations will be of the utmost importance, and conducting a physical security assessment of your workplace is a proactive and critical step.

Why do an assessment?

A physical security assessment is the cornerstone of effective security for any facility. It identifies gaps in security so they can be corrected. It also informs and influences security policies such as a facility security plan, crisis management plan, and workplace violence prevention and mitigation program. Facilities come in all shapes and sizes, so it's essential that the assessment be customized to your facility and operational priorities.

What does a sound assessment include?

The general components of a physical security assessment should include:

- Internal and external observations
- Review of existing security countermeasures
- Review of existing security policies and procedures
- Evaluation of security guard services (if applicable)
- Evaluation and analysis of criminal activity in the vicinity of the facility

This systematic evaluation of physical security can be accomplished internally if your company has security personnel on staff with the appropriate expertise. If this isn't the case, an external expert should be contacted to provide a thorough assessment and recommendations. Now more than ever, keeping your people, assets and operations safe is mission critical; and a physical security assessment is a proactive and responsible step toward accomplishing this goal.

Ensure the physical and psychological safety and security of your organization.

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