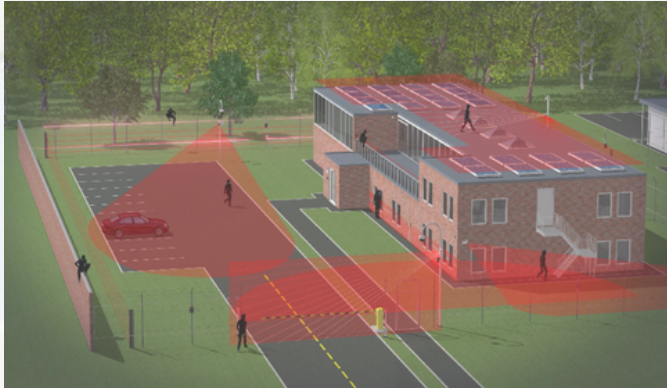


ON THE BLOG

Understanding Physical Security Strategy: A Multi-Layered Approach



In an ever-evolving world, organisations need to prioritise physical security to protect critical infrastructure, corporate offices, and public spaces with an effective strategy. Let's delve into the key principles and considerations for creating a robust security framework.

1. Multi-Layered Physical Security Approach

The cornerstone of any physical security strategy is multi-layering (defence-in-depth). Imagine a fortress with concentric walls - each layer adds additional protection. Similarly, security measures should work together, ensuring that the loss of any single layer doesn't significantly compromise overall security.

Layers of Security:

1. Building Location & Infrastructure:

- Start with the physical space's location, design, and construction. Consider access points, windows, and glazed facades. Reinforce vulnerable areas to deter unauthorised entry.

2. Building Services & Internal Spaces:

- Optimise building services such as lighting, HVAC, and fire safety systems. Secure internal spaces to prevent unauthorised access.

3. Cyber Assurance of Physical Security Systems (CAPSS):

- In today's interconnected world, cyber threats can impact physical security. Ensure that security systems (e.g., access control and surveillance) are resilient to cyber attacks.

4. Search and Screening:

- Implement effective search and screening procedures for detecting explosives, weapons, and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) threats.

5. Sensitive Information & Assets:

- Safeguard sensitive data, intellectual property, and valuable assets. Limit access to authorised personnel.

6. Video Surveillance, Access Control & Intruder Detection:

- Deploy surveillance cameras, access control systems, and intrusion detection sensors strategically. Monitor and respond to incidents promptly, maintain, and audit the systems regularly.

7. Control Rooms:

- Establish centralised control rooms for real-time monitoring, incident management, and coordination.

8. Windows & Glazed Facades:

- Reinforce windows and glazed areas to prevent forced entry. Consider blast-resistant materials where necessary.

2. Planning and Contingency Measures

A well-rounded security strategy involves both proactive planning and effective contingency measures:

1. Planning for New Security Projects:

- When implementing new security measures or upgrading existing ones, consider risk assessments, budgeting, and stakeholder collaboration.

2. Contingency Measures:

- Prepare for security incidents. Develop response protocols, evacuation plans, and communication strategies. Be ready to adapt swiftly in crisis situations.



3. Tools, Catalogues & Standards

Leading organisations, including the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) and BRE's Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) emphasise multi-layered security. They also provide valuable tools, catalogues or approved products, and standards to help inform security decision-making. It is vital to note that products must work together seamlessly, ensuring that the loss of any single layer doesn't compromise overall security, and please don't rely solely on product manufacturer/supplier claims; instead, evaluate measures based on actual needs and effectiveness and cross-check claims of being rated and approved by NPSA or LPCB by reviewing their particular catalogues as a minimum.

It's important to remember that physical security is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Tailoring your strategy to your organisation's unique requirements, threat landscape, and operational context is key. Regular assessments, training, and collaboration with security experts, such as those within Ubique Risk Management, are vital for maintaining an effective security posture.

By embracing multi-layered security and proactive planning, organisations can create a safer environment for their people, assets, and information. This is a team effort, and we all have a vital role in securing the future together!