

Examples of Threats

Threat is the likelihood of something bad happening—an intentional, natural, or accidental occurrence that would harm the event. Discuss the list of examples with the class, solicit other categories of threats, and discuss the relative likelihood of these threats to events in the students’ jurisdictions.

Question for class: Ask class for other examples.

Question for class: Ask class about likelihood of these occurring at special event in their areas.

Examples of Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability is weakness in protection against a threat. It can be a general vulnerability, such as an event in an isolated location far from emergency services. Or it can be a vulnerability specific to a threat, such as a venue that does not have sufficient water supply for fire suppression. Discuss the list of examples with the class, solicit other categories of vulnerabilities, and discuss the relative vulnerabilities of events in the students’ jurisdictions.

Question for class: Ask class for other examples.

Question for class: Ask class what are most likely vulnerabilities of special event in their areas.

Examples of Impact

Impact refers to the effects or consequences of bad things if they happen – the key issue is how big the impact will be if the threat materializes. Discuss the list of examples with the class, solicit other categories of impact, and discuss the impacts in relation to events in the students’ jurisdictions.

Question for class: Ask class for other examples.

Making Assessments

These general guidelines for making assessments of event risk are drawn from “Planning and Managing Security for Major Special Events: Guidelines for Law Enforcement,” pages 17 to 19. Ask the students if they can think of any other important guidelines.

Slide 5: Examples of Threats

Slide 6: Examples of Vulnerabilities

Slide 7: Examples of Impact

Slide 8: Making Assessments

Calculating Risk

Explain that before introducing the formula for calculating event security risk, it might be helpful to think about some examples of high and low threat, high and low vulnerability, and high and low impact as they relate to special events. Examples of realistic threats facing national events could include severe winter weather or terrorism at an Olympics, for example. You should prompt the students for examples that are realistic to the types of special events they have in their jurisdictions, and then engage them in a reality-check discussion about high and low, making the point that most local events do not face a very high probability of critical threats or devastating impact. This is an important discussion because, otherwise, students have a tendency to over-rate the risks facing events in their jurisdictions.

Next introduce the students to the actual formula. The components—threat, vulnerability, impact—should be familiar by now. All the formula requires is to multiply the numerical ratings for each of these factors to calculate a risk score for the event.

The handout “Risk Assessment for Special Events” shows how to rate each component—threat, vulnerability, impact—from low to critical. Point out to the students how the rating scales work for each component. Point out that rating each component for an event is a judgment call.

Show the students how using the formula will result in a risk score of 1 to 64. If an event is rated as low on all three components, its score will be 1 ($1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$). At the other extreme, if an event is rated as critical on all three components, then $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$. The handout “Risk Levels for Special Events” suggests how to take risk scores and translate them into five categories of special event security risk.

It is important to emphasize at this point that risk assessment is designed to do more than just result in a score. Each aspect of the risk assessment provides useful and practical information for risk management. In other words, the threat assessment identifies the most serious threats facing the event; naturally, attention can then be focused on threat reduction. Similarly, vulnerability assessment identifies the most serious weaknesses in event protection and logically suggests infrastructure and

Slide 9: Calculating Risk

Slide 10: Using the Risk Calculation

Slide 11: Using the Information

Slide 12: Conclusion

systems in need of improvement. If serious impacts are anticipated, this provides the justification for higher-priority planning, preparation, and resources. So risk assessment is about much more than assigning an overall risk score.

Tabletop Exercise and Student Worksheets

A tabletop exercise was introduced in Module 1 and is used to demonstrate the need for pre-planning for major special events. The instructor should refer the class back to the tabletop exercise, anchoring teaching points to a common theme throughout the course.

Students should also work on the “Lessons to Learn” worksheet. The instructor should ask students to spend a few minutes completing this document, which will help them research and gain deeper knowledge about this particular topic.

Students should also work on the “Personal Action Plan” worksheet. This worksheet is designed to help students develop specific steps, actions, or contacts and will help them relate the material to events they are responsible for in their own jurisdictions.

Slide 13: Tabletop Exercise

Slide 14: Break