PERSONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. continues to face a dynamic threat environment for targeted violence towards individuals or organizations that epitomize personal, political, or ideological grievances. This is further exacerbated by misinformation campaigns that aim to sow discord, shape public sentiment, and even encourage violence against individuals. To reduce the threat to personnel associated with ownership, operation, and maintenance of critical infrastructure, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends following basic security measures which are detailed below.

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

Critical Infrastructure owners and their personnel can reduce the probability of becoming a victim of an attack by remaining vigilant and reporting suspicious behavior that individuals may exhibit, including:

- Expressing or implying threats of violence
- Prolonging interest in or taking pictures of people or infrastructure in an unusual or covert manner
- Loitering at a location without a reasonable explanation
- Placing an object or package, either in a concealed or hidden manner, that has unexplainable wires or other obvious bomb-like components, and abandoning it or leaving the area
- Posting personally identifiable information online with the intent to harm, harass, or intimidate
- Unauthorized people trying to enter a restricted area or impersonating authorized personnel
- Asking specific questions about business functions, security, or employees
- Avoiding security personnel or systems

PERSONAL SECURITY MEASURES

Applying basic security measures can enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and mitigate threats to personal safety.

- Being aware of surroundings and nearby activities
- Limiting personal information sharing in digital platforms.
- Hiding personally identifiable information and work credentials when in public
- Letting a trusted person know where you are going, particularly if outside of daily functions, and when you plan to return
- Changing predictable routines, such as the timing and routes to work, school, or places of worship
- Staying in well-lit public areas and avoiding isolated streets
- Avoiding leaving personal belongings unattended, even for a few minutes
- Having a cell phone available to make emergency calls
- Carrying simple to use protective tools, such as pepper spray, and a bright flashlight. If maintained on your person, ensure facilities allow entry of such devices.
- Creating a personal or family emergency action plan
- Avoiding text messaging or lengthy cell phone use while walking alone
- Keeping hands free as carrying items may result in further vulnerabilities
- Avoiding suspicious packages, and recognizing potential indicators of a suspected explosive device to notify law enforcement
- Asking for help – contacting security or a co-worker for an escort to vehicle
- Parking in well-lit and attended areas; exercising caution when using underground and enclosed parking
- Heading to nearest public gathering location, police station, or fire department if being followed
- Trusting instincts and being assertive in decision making; calling for help from others or the police if feeling threatened

For continued information on threats, visit the National Terrorism Advisory System web page at dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system.

Please visit cisa.gov/hometownsecurity for additional resources.

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