

## National Historical Landmarks and Monuments

There are almost 2,600 national historic landmarks (NHLs) and monuments administered by the National Park Service (NPS) across the United States. While many of these readily accessible public locations may not have high traffic, some are still visited by tens of thousands of people and are used to hold large gatherings throughout the year. NHLs and monuments have significant symbolism and may become flashpoints for lawful protests, demonstrations, vandalism, or extremist violence. The diverse physical attributes, geographic locations, and operational and logistical considerations associated with NHLs and monuments create security and response challenges for first responders and security stakeholders.

**SCOPE:** This product is intended to raise public-safety community awareness to the potential security issues surrounding the diverse set of NHLs and monuments and to improve emergency response in the event of a violent extremist attack.

**Terrorist Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) and Response Considerations:** Violent extremists may use a variety of TTPs to execute an attack, including the use of edged weapons, small arms, vehicles, or more elaborate tactics, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), diversions, or secondary attacks. As a result, first responders and other public safety officials are encouraged to remain aware of current or emerging trends, report unusual behaviors that seem out of the ordinary, and investigate suspicious behaviors that may be indicative of violent extremism. Routine training of NPS staff, vendors, volunteers, and public-safety officers remains critical and may provide an opportunity to detect threats, prevent attacks, and provide effective mitigation.

- The types of NHL and monuments and their locations may pose unique security and response challenges for NPS personnel and require coordinated mutual aid from first responders and other external partners when responding to emergencies or potential violent extremist attacks. These sites can present complex response situations for first responders due to their geographic locations, which may span across multiple jurisdictions, and lack of personnel or operability of communication technologies (cellular or radio).
- The development of relationships between traditional and non-traditional partners (local businesses, convention centers, or hotels) are important because they establish a coordinated response, maximize resources (security cameras and other features), and provide training on complex response situations including multiple or isolated individuals. This holistic approach will help identify potential information sharing issues, response gaps, and possible suspicious activity indicators and warnings of threats.
- Develop joint partnerships and contacts to enable interoperability.
- Remain cognizant that some locations are held to various legal and policy standards specific to the preservation of cultural, historic, and natural resources.

**NOTICE:** This is a Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) publication. JCAT is a collaboration by the NCTC, DHS and FBI to improve information sharing among federal, state, local, tribal, territorial governments and private sector partners, in the interest of enhancing public safety. This product is **NOT** in response to a specific threat against the United States. It provides general awareness of, considerations for, and additional resources related to terrorist tactics, techniques and procedures, whether domestic or overseas. Consider the enclosed information within existing laws, regulations, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information, contact us at [JCAT@NCTC.GOV](mailto:JCAT@NCTC.GOV).



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- The design and layout of some sites may present a wide variety of challenges that interfere with the effectiveness of the response.
- Some individuals, such as law-enforcement rangers, who respond to an incident may have additional responsibilities including emergency medical service, fire, law enforcement, and search and rescue.
- Factor into pre-planning and response that large crowds or special events are also a possible target, as well as a secondary target, with the potential for attackers to use edged weapons, firearms, IEDs, or vehicle ramming.

**Best Practices:** Incorporating counterterrorism best practices to identify and mitigate potential threats could benefit first responders, federal, and state park service personnel. Some of these may include:

- Meet physical security standards as outlined by the Interagency Security Committee (ISC)<sup>a</sup>.
- Monitor intelligence information, including international, national, state, and local threats.
- Use research tools, such as social media and Real Time Open Source Analytics (ROSA) to provide indicators of potential communications, attack plans, and threats by nefarious actors. For example, active observation and assessment of anomalous gatherings that appear to be out of the ordinary can present opportunities to develop new suspicious activity indicators for reporting.
- Incorporate physical security principles including multi-disciplinary approaches of crime prevention, such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Develop pre-planning response protocols that include technical rescue (rescues that require specialized training and equipment—confined space, above/below grade, high-angle, swift water, etc.) concerns.
- Practice routine nightfall security measures including clearing parking lots, locking gates, and placement of both overt and covert security cameras to monitor potential trouble spots.

**Potential Threat Indicators:** Because of their direct interaction with the public, NPS personnel are in a unique position to identify behavior reasonably indicative of criminal or terrorist activity. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action. Behaviors associated with the below indicators can include constitutionally-protected activities. The FBI does not initiate any investigative activity based solely on the exercise of First Amendment activities or on the race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or identity of the subject, or a combination of only such factors.

<sup>a</sup> ISC enhances the quality and effectiveness of physical security protecting buildings and nonmilitary federal facilities in the United States. ISC standards apply to all nonmilitary federal facilities in the US whether government-owned, leased, or managed; to be constructed or modernized; or to be purchased.



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When observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors, particularly advocating violence, the following indicators may constitute a basis for suspicious activity reporting:

- Be aware of surveillance or attack planning indicators during or after hours of operation:
  - Discreet use of cameras, video recorders, phones, sketching or note-taking consistent with preoperational surveillance of government buildings, NHLs, monuments, and icons symbolic of capitalism or corporate globalization.
  - Observation of or probing questions about ground or facility security measures, to include barriers, restricted areas, cameras, intrusion detection systems, air conditioning, heating, and ventilation systems or an unusual interest in acquiring information from the building maintenance personnel about the aforementioned features.
  - Attempted trespassing or unauthorized access to rooftops, including adjacent properties, or other potentially sensitive areas.
  - Suspicious activities in or around storage facilities or other areas that could be used to construct an IED.
- Remain vigilant of individuals who may attempt to gauge first responder reaction or interfere with incident response by physically blocking traffic (lying in the street), or using objects to impede movement (bicycles, fireworks, pre-staged bricks, stones, or water bottles).
- Be aware of commercially available unmanned systems that may be used for nefarious purposes to deliver hazardous payloads (chemicals, explosives, or biological or radiological agents) to conduct an attack or surveillance.

### RESOURCES

Department of Interior <https://www.doi.gov/>

#### National Park Service

- **National Historic Landmarks by State** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/list-of-nhls-by-state.htm>
- **National Monument List** <https://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/monumentslist.htm>
- **Website** <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

Nationwide SAR Initiative <https://www.dhs.gov/nsi>

Notable Park Anniversaries <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/park-anniversaries.htm>

If you see something, say something® <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>

US Fish and Wildlife <https://www.fws.gov/>

US Park Police <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/uspp/contactus.htm>

- **Tipline-Report a Crime: (202) 610-8737**

**Recognize Suspicious Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Poster and Postcard** <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/recognize-suspicious-unmanned-aircraft-systems-uas-poster-and-postcard>

**Recommendations for First Amendment-Protected Events for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies** <https://www.it.ojp.gov/GIST/35/Recommendations-for-First-Amendment-Protected-Events-for-State-and-Local-Law-Enforcement-Agencies>





## PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS.

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

