



跨部門反恐專責組  
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

# Safe Community Newsletter

**Q3 2024 Issue #10**

## Terrorist Threats Against Mass Gatherings and Personal Safety

A mass gathering is defined as an event where a large number of people come together at a particular location for a specific purpose. Such locations, usually associated with large crowds, could always be an attractive target for terrorists.

### *Why are mass gatherings attractive?*



#### **High casualty potential**

The presence of a dense crowd may increase the potential number of casualties.



#### **Soft targets**

Open spaces and sometimes with limited security measures in terms of the scale and complexity of these gatherings.



#### **Symbolic significance**

Mass gatherings may represent certain important symbols, values or ideologies, e.g. a religious gathering which bears religious significance, or a concert that bears certain cultural value.



#### **Economic or political impact**

Terrorist attacks on mass gatherings may inflict economic damage and undermine public confidence, e.g. creating a perception of instability and actual instability in the targeted area and causing disruption to business activities.



#### **Media and international attention**

Extensive media coverage and international attention may amplify the impact of an attack, spread fear and provide opportunities for terrorists to further their agenda.



# Overseas attacks targeting mass gatherings

## Russia



In March 2024, several gunmen launched a mass shooting attack at a popular concert venue in Moscow, Russia, resulting in over 140 deaths and over 550 injuries.



## The US



In April 2024, several gunmen staged a shooting attack at a park in West Philadelphia, where about 1,000 people had gathered for Eid al-Fitr (an Islamic religious celebration marking the end of Ramadan).



## The UK



In May 2017, a man conducted a suicide bombing attack at Manchester Arena in Manchester, the UK. Following a concert by an American pop singer, he detonated an improvised explosive device containing triacetone triperoxide (TATP) and nuts and bolts serving as shrapnel, resulting in 22 deaths and more than 1,000 injuries.





# Take Charge of Your Personal Safety

Everyone has a part to play to keep our neighbourhoods, communities and the city safe!



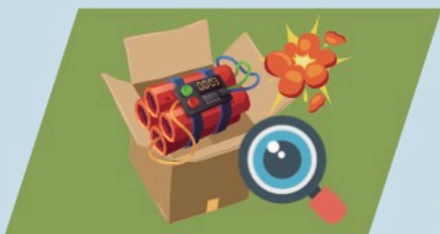
## Be Prepared – Spot and Report

- ▶ Take notice of your surroundings and identify potential emergency exit routes
- ▶ Beware of unusual behaviours, unattended objects, unexplained odours, or vehicles travelling at an abnormal speed or pattern
- ▶ Report any suspicious persons, items or activities to security personnel or the Police

## Take Action – Run, Hide, Report

When an attack or emergent incident occurs, remember to:

## Remain Vigilant



Stay alert for potential secondary attacks



Render first aid when safe to do so



When emergency services personnel arrive, follow their instructions



Hong Kong residents encountering a terrorist incident outside Hong Kong, whether in Mainland or elsewhere, may seek assistance from the Immigration Department or the Chinese Embassy/Consulate at your destination:



## **Immigration Department - "Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit"**



HK Immigration Department  
Mobile App

- ▶ Call the 24- hour Assistance Hotline (852)1868;
- ▶ Call the 24- hour Assistance Hotline by the Immd Mobile Application;
- ▶ Fill in Online Assistance Request Form; or
- ▶ 1868 WhatsApp Assistance Hotline.



## **12308 Hotline**

The Global Emergency Call Center for Consular Protection and Services Hotline of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (86-10) 12308 provides consular protection and consulting services for overseas Chinese citizens.

You can also seek assistance through the WeChat official account of Consular Services of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Please scan  
WeChat Official Account  
of Consular Services  
via WeChat

## **Security Bureau - "Safeguard HK Mobile App"**



The Mobile App of Security Bureau provides the following information :

- ▶ Instant updates of Outbound Travel Alerts;
- ▶ Contact information of Chinese Embassies and Consulates; and
- ▶ SOS tools which include "Safety Check", SOS whistle and SOS flashlight.



Safeguard HK  
Mobile App