

NaCTSO Guidance Note 1/2015

Developing Dynamic Lockdown Procedures

This note provides guidance to develop procedures to dynamically lockdown their sites in response to a fast moving incident such as a firearms or weapons attack, either directly at the site or in the vicinity. Due to the differences between the vast array of sites in the UK it is not possible to give prescriptive advice, however this guidance details planning considerations applicable to most sites.

What is dynamic lockdown?

Dynamic lockdown is the ability to quickly restrict access and egress to a site or building (or part of) through physical measures in response to a threat, either external or internal. The aim of lockdown is to prevent people moving into danger areas and preventing or frustrating the attackers accessing a site (or part of). It is recognised that due to their nature some sites may not be able to physically achieve lockdown.

Why develop dynamic lockdown?

Those seeking to conduct attacks often undertake a level of planning including hostile reconnaissance. All opportunities to detect and deter threats at the attack planning phase should be taken. Presenting a strong security posture through visible and effective activity, for example by staff awareness and reporting processes, efficient use of CCTV, deterrent communications and active security zones.

In preventing an attack has not been possible, the ability to frustrate and delay the attacker(s) during the course of the attack and reduce the number of potential casualties can be greatly increased through dynamic lockdown.

Advance planning of what needs to be done to lockdown a site and recognising the need for flexibility in those plans will save lives.

Planning should consider;

- How to achieve effective full or partial lockdown
- How to let people know what's happening
- Training your staff
- STAY SAFE principles

“Stay Safe” is a short film capturing the actions that people should take in the event of a firearms or weapons attack. It contains the main messages of RUN > HIDE > TELL (Annex A)

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How to achieve dynamic lockdown

- In your planning you should identify all access and egress points in both public and private areas of the site. Remember, access points may be more than just doors and gates.
- Identify how to quickly and physically secure access/egress points
- Identify how your site can be sectorised to allow specific areas to be locked down
- Staff roles and responsibilities should be included in the plans.
- Staff must be trained to act effectively and made aware of their responsibilities
- Stopping people leaving or entering the site – direct people away from danger
- Ability to disable lifts without returning them to the ground floor should be considered
- Processes need to be flexible enough to cope with and compliment invacuation and evacuation

How to let people know what's happening

Various options exist depending on the nature and occupancy of the site, these include;

- Public Address (PA) system
- Existing internal messaging systems; text, email, staff phones etc.
- “Pop up” on employees computers / internal messaging systems
- Dedicated “Lockdown” alarm tone
- Word of mouth

For multi occupancy sites, methods of communication between all businesses need to be considered. Likewise, working with surrounding businesses will not only benefit situational awareness but build effective lines of communication.

Note: Use of fire alarms should be avoided to reduce incorrect response to an incident.

Training your staff

Due to the fast moving nature of incidents that require lockdown it is important that all staff are able to act quickly and effectively.

- Train all staff using principles of “Stay Safe” (Annex A)
- Ensure people know what is expected of them, their roles and responsibilities
- Check staff understanding
- Regularly test and exercise plans with staff
- Regularly refresh training

For further advice and guidance please visit the NaCTSO website: www.nactso.gov.uk

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Stay Safe

Firearms and weapons attack

'Stay Safe' principles (Run Hide Tell) give some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a firearms and weapons attack. Full guidance is contained on the NaCTSO website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recognising-the-terrorist-threat>.

Run

- Escape if you can.
- Consider the safest options.
- Is there a safe route? RUN if not HIDE.
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- Insist others leave with you.
- Leave belongings behind.

Hide

- If you can't RUN, HIDE.
- Find cover from gunfire.
- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you.
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe, bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal.
- Find cover from gunfire e.g. substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls.
- Be aware of your exits.
- Try not to get trapped.
- Be quiet, silence your phone.
- Lock / barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

Tell

Call 999 - What do the police need to know?

- Location - Where are the suspects?
- Direction - Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions – Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.
- Further information – Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so.

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Armed Police Response

- Follow officers' instructions.
- Remain calm.
- Can you move to a safer area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat.
- Keep your hands in view.

Officers may

- Point guns at you.
- Treat you firmly.
- Question you.
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker.
- Officers will evacuate you when it is safe to do so.

You must STAY SAFE

- What are your plans if there were an incident?
- What are the local plans? e.g. personal emergency evacuation plan.

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