



Terrorist interest in public targets include hotels

Federal law enforcement officials released Sept. 21 a security bulletin to police urging them to be vigilant about possible terrorist interest in attacking stadiums, entertainment complexes, and hotels. This warning comes from investigations into possible bomb plots in Denver and New York.

While there are no specific targets mentioned, hotel security managers should remain alert and review their security procedures. AH&LA encourages its members to be informed of the appropriate actions that can be taken to safeguard your properties.

What is going on?

The FBI and U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security are investigating two groups in New York and Denver who may have been plotting attacks on mass transit systems and other unspecified targets.

Arrests have been made of some suspects, but law enforcement is unsure of the size of the groups. Law enforcement officials still have a "deep concern" the government may have only partially disrupted a terror plot, according to news reports.

A half-dozen alerts have been issued to police nationwide about these arrests, the possible plots, and warnings to remain vigilant. While law enforcement issues these kinds of alerts monthly, the recent investigations in New York and Denver are uncovering more information every day.

No specific hotel targets have been named. However, in light of past terrorist attacks in this country and overseas, law enforcement has been taking precautions, including increased security patrols on New York City subway systems.

What you can do?

- Take inventory of what you're already doing for your hotel's security:
- Review your current security and crises management programs
- Work with local law enforcement agencies to ensure your programs are in line with the community's plan to address possible terrorist activities
- Incorporate relevant aspects of the community's plans into your own
- Make sure local law enforcement agencies have current blueprints of your property.

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