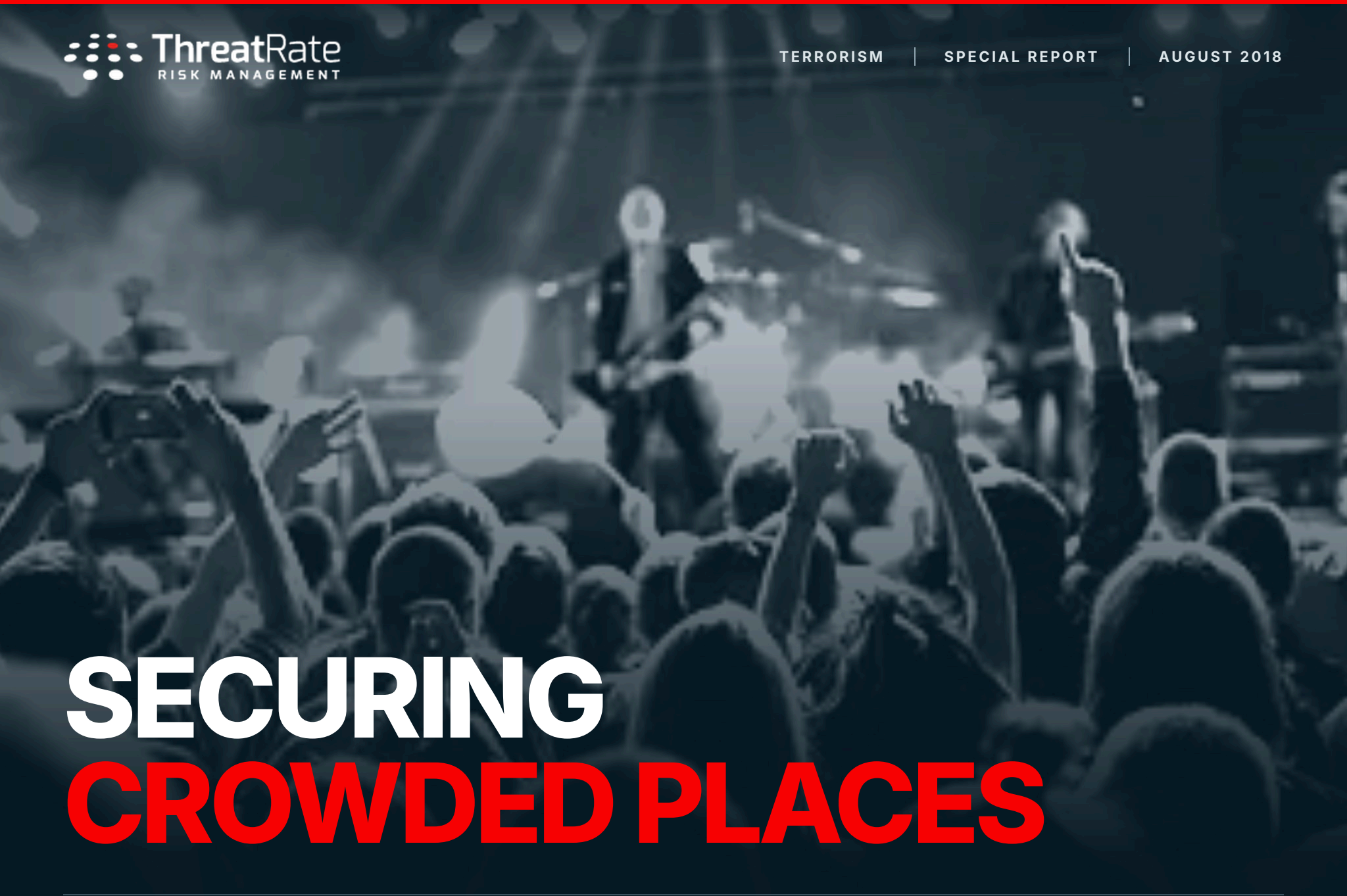


SECURING CROWDED PLACES

PUBLISHED
28 August 2018

CATEGORY
Terrorism

TERRORISM · AUGUST 2018

Securing Crowded Places

Increasingly, the public is beginning to see a trend towards terrorist attacks targeting crowded, so-called soft targets. The Australian government, in a public paper discussing terrorism in crowded spaces, noted that terrorists prefer such places because density increases the likelihood of large numbers of casualties, many crowded places are accessible, the psychological effect on the public, and the attention such attacks garner. These were seen with the attacks that have occurred over the last few years in United Kingdom such as the London Bridge attack, the Manchester concert bombing, and the Borough Market attack; elsewhere in Europe, there were attacks in France on Bastille Day in 2016 and an attack at a Berlin Christmas market; in the United States, it is seen in the mass shootings that have occurred in schools, nightclubs, concerts, and at mass public events (e.g., the Boston Marathon bombing). Inherent in public spaces – especially crowded and non-permanent spaces – are significant security challenges that authorities and planners must contend with as they seek to reduce both the risk of terrorist attacks and, if an attack were to occur, its damage. Some common targets that concern authorities are malls, stadiums, and shopping centers.

In some cases, security can be built into the design if the flow allows for centralizing the entrance into the location. Under such circumstances, security checkpoints or screenings can occur upon entrance. For example, if there were one entrance to a sporting or entertainment venue, then, as individuals are providing their tickets, trained K9s or other screenings can occur without disrupting the flow of people as much. The construction of buildings can also positively impact security. For example, barriers can be built that decrease the likelihood that would-be attacks are successful. This would, for example, benefit cases where an attack is attempted by ramming a truck or car into a high-density area. To compound risk mitigation under such circumstances, forced speed decreases can be implemented through speed bumps, lane merges, etc.

In the run-up to the 2018 World Cup tournament, the United Kingdom's government embarked on a campaign to provide security advice to fans attending the Russian-hosted games. The government's campaign, "Know the Game Plan," is being conducted through video and using former England soccer stars who, in the videos provide safety information to fans. Authorities, based on past precedent, are inclined to assume that many thousands of fans will watch matches in public places such as city centers and fan parks. Such locations, with large numbers of individuals, create a safety concern. The authorities are also offering advice to companies operating crowded venues. This campaign, "Summer Security," began during the UK's May festivals on the Bank Holiday weekend. In addition to targeted companies, the campaign sought to raise awareness of existing safety information for the public and to encourage the use of such information.

Authorities have a responsibility to mitigate the risk to the public from terrorist attacks; however, this responsibility, and the goal of reducing harm if one were to occur, must be balanced with the public's desire to interact in large, open venues. Outside of public awareness campaigns, additional efforts will likely be placed on seamless, real-time surveillance and security-oriented construction both of which

© 2018 ThreatRate Risk Management. All Rights Reserved

mitigate risk while decreasing the burden placed on the public.

Soundbite analytics

- In 2014, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace, the direct cost of terrorism to the global economy was $52.9 billion.
- The indirect cost in 2014 was $105 billion.
- A 2 million-pound UK-based competition was launched to fund technology to prevent terrorist attacks.
- At least one insurance carrier is offering discounts to some public places for taking steps to limit the risk posed by terrorist attacks. The discount is up to 5%.

SOURCES

1 https://nationalsecurity.gov.au/Media-and-publications/Publications/Documents/Australias-Strategy-Protecting-Crowded-Places-Terrorism.pdf

2 https://airmic.com/news/guest-stories/how-manage-threat-terrorism-crowded-places

3 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/act-summer-security-know-the-game-plan

4 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ct-summer-security

© 2018 ThreatRate Risk Management. All Rights Reserved



Risk intelligence that keeps you safe

ABOUT THREATRATE

ThreatRate helps you benchmark your risk management strategy against rapidly evolving global and local trends, with real-time, actionable analytics and insights.

For more information contact us at

info@threatrate.com

MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO

100+
risk-focused reports published annually

API
customised access option

Dashboards
customised dashboards and infographics

Experts
ThreatRate analysts with cross-industry depth

© 2018 ThreatRate Risk Management. All Rights Reserved

ThreatRate RISK MANAGEMENT