

SAFETY AND SECURITY – CHECKLIST OF THREATS AND HARM

To assist stadium managers in discharging their statutory duty of care, Steve Frosdick shares his checklist of safety and security threats and harm.

The 1989 European Framework Directive on Safety and Health at Work (Directive 89/391 EEC) established common minimum health and safety requirements throughout Europe. Member States subsequently introduced or amended their own national legislation and regulations to deliver at least these minimum standards. More stringent measures were permitted at the discretion of individual Member States.

In broad terms, national health and safety legislation and regulations place a general duty on employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. The general duty includes an explicit requirement on employers make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees **and others affected by their business operation** and to identify the measures needed to minimise the risks. **Note that the requirement covers spectators and other customers as well as staff.**

Stadium managers discharge these duties in various ways, for example through event planning, event specific risk assessments and through collating and monitoring risk assessments from contractors such as broadcast companies. But the principal way to ensure this duty is properly performed is through the preparation of a generic risk assessment for standard events at the stadium.

The first step in preparing such a generic risk assessment is to consider what threats exist and what harm these could cause.

The following checklist of 56 threats and harm has been gradually compiled during the course of over twenty years experience of research and consultancy in safety and security at sports grounds. Whilst the checklist is comprehensive, it cannot be regarded as definitive. Although we can use hindsight to help predict repeating risks, there are always new risks which come along and take us by surprise.

CHECKLIST OF THREATS AND HARM

Public Safety and Public Security Risks

Ref	Threats	Harm
1.1	Terrorist or CBRN incident	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be killed, seriously injured or contaminated. The stadium could have to be fully, phased or partially evacuated.
1.2	Fire	The stadium could catch fire. Staff, spectators and players or officials could be trapped in the burning building and injured or killed.
1.3	Violence within the stadium footprint	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be attacked and injured by other spectators.

Ref	Threats	Harm
1.4	Use of flares, fireworks or other pyrotechnics	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be killed or injured, for example through burns, toxic products, respiratory problems, fire hazards, temporary or permanent hearing loss, cardiac arrhythmia, etc.
1.5	Throwing of objects or missiles	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be injured by objects or missiles thrown by opposing groups of spectators.
1.6	Use of weapons	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be attacked with weapons and killed or injured by other spectators.
1.7	Counterfeit tickets	Spectators could attend in possession of counterfeit tickets. This could result in overcrowding or breach of segregation.
1.8	Ticket touting	Spectators could attend in possession of touted tickets. This could result in a breach of segregation.
1.9	Travelling fans without tickets	Fans could travel without tickets hoping to force their way or be let into the venue. This could result in overcrowding.
1.10	Breach of segregation arrangements	Fans of the opposing clubs could infiltrate one another's areas and cause disorder.
1.11	Pitch invasion	Spectators could invade the pitch to attack players or officials or to seek to attack opposing fan groups.
1.12	Hate speech or behaviour	Spectators could abuse staff, each other and/or players or officials on grounds of race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.
1.13	Protest	Spectators could display political or other protest-related symbols and/or sing or chant protests
1.14	Vandalism or destruction	Spectators could damage or destroy stadium structures, installations or components.
1.15	Laser pointers	Spectators could dazzle players or officials with laser pointers.
1.16	Team or officials escort problems	Players or officials could be attacked and injured on their arrival at or departure from the stadium.
1.17	Persistent standing	Spectators be injured through a progressive crowd collapse, particularly on upper tiers, or could obstruct the views of others.
1.18	Blocked aisles and/or vomitories	Emergency services could be unable to reach a casualty in the seating bowl.
1.19	Bomb threat	The stadium and/or footprint could have to be fully, phased or partially evacuated.
1.20	Suspect package	The stadium and/or footprint could have to be fully, phased or partially evacuated.

Ref	Threats	Harm
1.21	Structural collapse	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be killed or injured and the stadium could have to be fully, phased or partially evacuated.
1.22	Late arrival of spectators	Spectators could arrive late, putting pressure on the entry procedures.
1.23	Overcrowding, surging or crushing	Spectators could surge during access, egress or the event, causing overcrowding and crushing on the approaches, in the concourses and in the seating bowl.
1.24	Adverse weather	Spectators could slip and fall on the stadium footprint.
1.25	Abandoned event	The stadium would have to be evacuated.
1.26	Lock-out	The event could sell out. Fans without tickets would be unable to enter the venue and could become disgruntled.
1.27	Gas or chemical leak	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be exposed to contaminated air or the risk of explosion.
1.28	Electricity supply failure	Staff, spectators and players or officials could be unable to see and could slip, trip or fall as a result. Life safety systems would cease to operate. The stadium could have to be fully, phased or partially evacuated.
1.29	Floodlight failure	The event could have to be abandoned.
1.30	Life safety systems failures	There could be failures in the CCTV or turnstile systems. The event could have to be abandoned.
1.31	Communication systems failures	There could be failures in the public address, radio or landline telephone systems. The event could have to be abandoned.
1.32	Ticket computer system failure	Ticket sales could have to be suspended. Fans without tickets would be unable to enter the venue and could become disgruntled.
1.33	Deliveries during events	Delivery vehicles could come into contact with pedestrians, causing injury. Parcels could be a security threat.
1.34	Alcohol-related problems	Spectators could commit offences under the relevant national law and/or local regulations.
1.35	Long holdbacks	Away spectators could become disgruntled and disorderly if they are kept back in the away sector for too long a time.
1.36	No holdback	At a high risk match, fans of the opposing clubs could meet during egress and cause disorder.
1.37	Inadequate/incomplete facilities	Spectators could become disgruntled and disorderly if the facilities provided for them are inadequate or incomplete.

Ref	Threats	Harm
1.38	Illegitimate policing or stewarding style	Spectators could become disgruntled or angry or even be injured if they are treated disproportionately or indiscriminately by police or stewards.
1.39	Obstruction to crowd movement	The movement of spectators and staff could be completely or partially blocked by an object or by other people.
1.40	Crowd cross-flows	Spectators and/or staff could be heading in different directions through the same area.
1.41	Rapid crowd movement or rushing	The speed of crowd movement could cause crushing, pile-ups or trampling.
1.42	Vigorous movement in a stationary crowd	Spectators swaying or jumping up and down could cause crushing or a progressive crowd collapse.
1.43	Slips and trips: at doorways (rain), spillages, objects on floor, uneven surfaces.	Spectators and staff risk injuries such as fractures or bruises if they trip over objects or slip on surfaces.
1.44	Falls	Spectators could be injured by falls from height, off an edge or down a slope or stairs.
1.45	Moving vehicles	Spectators and staff could be struck by a moving vehicle and injured.
1.46	Falling objects	Spectators and staff could be struck and injured by a falling object e.g. debris.
1.47	Collision with an object	Spectators and staff could be injured by walking into or being pushed against an object, e.g. a protruding object, a sharp object, a pillar or post, a bollard, a doorway, street furniture, etc.
1.48	Getting trapped or stuck	Spectators and staff could get caught and unable to free themselves, e.g. in railings, in a lift, on an uneven surface (wheelchairs), etc.

Other Health and Safety Risks to Stewards

Ref	Threats	Harm
2.1	Falls at height	Stewards could fall and injure themselves during deployment on upper tiers or staircases.
2.2	Manual handling	Stewards may suffer from back pain from handling barriers or other heavy objects.
2.3	Fatigue	Stewards may suffer fatigue or back pain, neck or shoulder injuries and pain or discomfort in feet and legs through too much walking or standing.
2.4	Hearing	Stewards could suffer hearing damage if exposed to high noise levels for long periods.
2.5	Hygiene and comfort	Stewards could experience discomfort.

Ref	Threats	Harm
2.6	Violence and threatening behaviour. Verbal abuse.	Stewards could suffer stress and/or injury from assaults, threats and abuse from members of the public.
2.7	Display screen equipment	Control room staff risk pain, discomfort or injuries, e.g. to hands or arms, from overuse or improper use or from poorly designed workstations. Headaches or sore eyes can also occur, e.g. if the lighting is poor.
2.8	Weather extremes	Stewards risk discomfort and possible ill-health from exposure to extreme weather.

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