

Security Awareness - Industry Vehicles as Potential Terrorist Weapons

You will know that the last 12 months have seen terrorist attacks across Europe where vehicles have been used as improvised weapons. In several of the attacks, the drivers of the vehicles concerned have been overpowered and in some cases killed.

Advice we have received from the national security services is that there has been a step change in the level of terrorist activity, and that the risk and associated threat will remain high for the foreseeable future.

As an industry, our members and industry hauliers operate a large number of HGVs throughout the country. While London is clearly a focus, examples elsewhere in Europe have highlighted that any urban area with a concentration of people has the potential to be a terrorist target.

Our industry has a particular vulnerability because the operations and deliveries members' vehicles undertake can involve vehicles left with engines running both on and off site, making them especially vulnerable to theft/hi-jacking.

There may be technical steps that can be taken to counter these risks and MPA will provide further information on this in due course, but the most important first step is to recognise that the threat exists and to raise awareness amongst drivers and other staff of the vulnerability of our vehicles. Although vehicle attacks to date have involved some planning and prior preparation, there is also the possibility of more spur of the moment attacks if obvious opportunities to take vehicles are presented. Basic precautions include ensuring that keys are kept in a safe location, not leaving vehicles unattended and having a vehicle security and security awareness policy/plan that works for your business and for your hauliers and drivers.

We would therefore ask members and their hauliers and drivers to be vigilant and to minimise the risks of vehicle theft as far as possible.

We would also strongly recommend the guidance note prepared by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, a government agency that reports to the Director General of MI5. This provides advice to businesses on how to disrupt hostile reconnaissance through the principles of deterrence, detection and denial. Primarily, this involves ensuring that all staff are aware and alert to the potential risks and threats that may be relevant to the jobs they do.

Link here: <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/system/files/documents/23/de/understanding-hostile-reconnaissance-understanding-and-countermeasures-the-threat.pdf>

Any suspicious activity in the vicinity of vehicles or operations should in the first instance be reported to the local Police and also MPA (mark.russell@mineralproducts.org) as we can co-ordinate with the national security services and see, for example, if such activities are concentrated in particular locations.



The Mineral Products Association is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

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Mineral Products Association

38-44 Gillingham Street
London SW1V 1HU

Tel 020 7963 8000
Fax 020 7963 8001
info@mineralproducts.org
www.mineralproducts.org