INCREASING BASIC SECURITY THROUGH AWARENESS, COMMUNICATION, AND NETWORKING

Timber Security: terrorism

INTRODUCTION: The forest products industry continues to be targeted by eco-extremists. Incidents of protests, vandalism, and deliberate sabotage continue unabated. The reality that "Yes, it can happen to you" needs to be accepted and dealt with! Each of us is responsible for fellow employees, our industry, and ourselves collectively. Whether you are in an urban distribution center, a rural nursery, harvest operation, or operating as a clerk, secretary, timber purchaser, or forester, YOU ARE AT RISK! You are also in a position to influence that risk!

Many of these security risks can be reduced with a commitment to awareness, communication, and networking. Gaining a better understanding of the issues, risks, and prevention techniques shared with your fellow employees and neighbors will make you less likely to become a target or victim. Some of the items covered will basically be common sense but have been forgotten or fallen through the cracks of increasing work responsibilities.

CONSIDERATIONS:

• **Suspicious Vehicle Report Forms.** Distribute to woods and facility personnel. Record vehicle description, license number, and date and time of unusual activities. Promptly forward to the appropriate agency.

• **Guest Book.** Place a guest book on the counter in the office. Anyone coming in to make a call, restroom use, drink of water, or other needs to sign in. Most incidents are "cased" before operations.

• **Camera.** Place a camera, real or fake, in a prominent location facing the door. Place signs, real or fake, noting that the facilities are monitored by a security company.

• **Office Landscaping.** Review the office landscaping for potential hiding spots for both individuals and devices. Ensure lighting is adequate. Examine your highway signing of the operation. A big sign identifying "Hybrid," "Genetic Research," or "Corporate or Regional Headquarters" may not have the desired effects anymore!

• **Re-establish Law Enforcement Contacts.** Take the initiative to meet with your local law enforcement representatives. Explain that you are promoting increased security awareness. Ask for ideas or efforts that will improve their effectiveness and your safety needs. Provide them with updated contact phone numbers for company representatives and facilities. Develop an enforcement contact list and distribute it to office and field personnel. Post a copy at the switchboard or reception desk. This list should include: City Police, Sheriff’s Office, State Police, FBI, DEA, ATF, and DEQ to name a few.

• **List Highest Potential Targets.** List what you feel are the highest potential targets for your operation: genetic research, controversial timber sale, high investment stands, progeny sites, etc. List the location and contact person for each site and provide it to the appropriate enforcement agency.
• Identify Reward Funds. Record existing local reward funds for specific crimes or generic rewards for vandalism or terrorist activities.

• Photo Document. Begin photo documenting, digital preferred, the results of vandalism, high profile terrorist attacks, threats or simply riparian damage from four-wheelers, dumping of appliances, cars, and other debris on private lands.

• Communications. Increase internal and external communications. Network with neighbors, both large and small. Initiate shared communications expectations, such as a gate watcher program. Spice up the monthly safety meetings. Reinforce your new law enforcement contacts. Many agencies offer programs or talk programs.

• Media Outreach. Introduce yourself to the “outdoor” section reporter from the local newspaper. Offer that reporter an opportunity to tour field operations. That reporter will be an excellent ally when media help is needed.

• Network. Keep in touch with security professionals and trade associations.


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