Today's Best Practice Take-Away: Physical Plant Security and Safety

One area that is often overlooked is a venue's physical plant security. At first, these areas may seem to have less risk, but they are still important to protect. Employ protective measures (i.e. fencing, bollards, and enclosures) around exposed utilities such as transformers, natural gas lines, water values, air intakes, generators, and telephone switch boxes to protect them against attack and/or damage. These utilities are sometimes damaged accidently which can have cascading effects. A risk/vulnerability assessment will help identify what needs to be implemented when, where, and how.

You may also consider having full-time facilities personnel on-site during events at the venue for maintenance issues and repairs and they should remain onsite until released by a supervisor. It is also important to know when systems were last serviced/repaired and by whom. There is a need to maintain an up to date listing of service providers with contact numbers. Keep a record of who (repairman) is authorized to access the HVAC, mechanical, electrical, water, and gas/fuel/cooking systems with their contact information.

You should secure and protect with locks and/or tamper proof seals and/or monitoring via video surveillance. Then, test backup systems monthly and/or in compliance with local codes. Inspect and test all systems before every game and assign security staff or utilize monitoring devices to safeguard vulnerable systems. Conduct annual structural and physical inspections (to include equipment) and document inspection results/findings along with any remedial action necessary. Some of the systems include:

- HVAC
- Other Utilities (electric/gas/water/fuel)
- Elevators/Escalators
- Emergency Generators/Batteries

All systems should be tested and documented. The documentation will help prevent unforeseen issues and serve as liability protection in the event of a lawsuit. If you anticipate potential issues at the venue or event, consider having system personnel onsite (i.e. adverse weather/threat). By already having the individuals onsite you will reduce response time to fix an issue. For the emergency generators, you should test this system with necessary other systems working during the test. Ensure that venue generators are sufficient to support emergency systems to include Command Center and cameras.

For more information on the Best Practices, download the 2018 editions of the NCS4 Safety and Security Best Practices Guides at http://www.ncs4.com/knowledgeportal/best-practices