

Security Assessment at First Entry

What is the SAFE?

The Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE) tool is designed to assess the current security posture and identify options for facility owners and operators to mitigate relevant threats. It is not intended to be an in-depth security assessment.

A SAFE may be the first step toward an effective security program. It is generally intended for facilities that have little or no security measures or planning in place. A Protective Security Advisor may find that it is appropriate to conduct a more detailed assessment using the Infrastructure Survey Tool (IST) at a facility after a SAFE visit has been completed and after the facility has implemented some of the identified options for consideration, for example, by assigning a security manager, developing a security plan, and implementing various physical security measures.

When to do a SAFE

The SAFE is not limited to or intended only for certain facility types. It may be better suited for facilities such as rural county fairgrounds, houses of worship with only weekend services and few members, and small health clinics. It is not recommended for some types of facilities such as refineries, major hospitals, or laboratories housing dangerous biological agents. However, factors other than facility type are more relevant when determining if a SAFE is an appropriate tool for a specific facility; these factors may include the following:

- The maturity of the facility's current security program, if one exists;
- Stability/maturity of the organization and its leadership; and
- Criticality of the facility relative to the region or Nation.

PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR THE SAFE PROGRAM

Houses of worship with small congregations and limited activities onsite
Small health clinics and critical access hospitals unaccredited by the Joint Commission
Branches of banks and credit unions
Rural county fairgrounds

GENERALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE SAFE PROGRAM

Major lifeline infrastructure nodes such as refineries, power plants, and water and wastewater treatment facilities
Major hospitals
Federal Reserve System banks and branches
Biosafety Level laboratories

The SAFE also may be appropriate for local farms, feed lots, grain elevators, small rural substations, and lift/pump stations.



How to decide

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

ANTICIPATED RESPONSE

Physical and Operational Characteristics	Is the facility a single asset in a rural area performing a singular function?	YES
	Is the facility unoccupied most of the time?	
	If the facility is regularly occupied, is it occupied by fewer than 100 people?	
	Does the facility operate only a few times a year?	
	Does the facility have only local significance?	
	If the facility is an element of lifeline infrastructure, is it a downstream node with a limited impact (localized service area)?	
Organizational Characteristics	Does the facility have a single, autonomous owner and operator (e.g., a family-owned business or religious leader)?	YES
	Does the facility point-of-contact change frequently (e.g., seasonally or annually)?	
Security Program	Does the facility lack a security program?	YES
	Does the facility lack a dedicated security manager or department?	
	Does the facility lack a security budget?	
	Does the facility lack a written, well-developed security plan?	
	Does the facility lack a security force (i.e., a group or employees or contractors dedicated to providing security for the facility)?	

SAFE? Or IST?

SAFE

FACILITY TYPE

IST

Outdoor event space (essentially a field) infrequently used for small events; supporting infrastructure is generally mobile or temporary	Community Park, Fairground, Pavilion	Outdoor event space in a major urban area, used nightly for events attended by thousands, with dedicated supporting infrastructure
City library in an area with 5,000 residents	Library	University library on a campus with 50,000 students
Small/rural motel or hotel	Hotel or Motel	Same hotel assigned to host a national sports league team during the annual championship game
Store within a strip mall	Store Retailer	Flagship store that is a well-known tourist attraction in a major U.S. city; large shopping mall
Facility with few members, hosting only weekend services (no daycare, school, etc.)	House of Worship	Megachurch with thousands of members; includes a community center, daycare, and/or school
Small earthen dam in a rural area where a breach would not affect the downstream population	Dam Project	Hydroelectric dam critical to a city's public utility capabilities, navigation locks, and/or flood control structures
Small, single tenant/owner facility focused on simple administrative functions with up to several hundred employees	Office Building	Large multilevel, multi-tenant facility with enterprise security and resilience programs; 500+ employees

For more information or to participate in a SAFE, contact:
Felix Pomponi at felix.pomponi@hq.dhs.gov