



December 5, 2017

## District of Columbia Public Safety Agencies Prepared for Holiday Events

***At this time, there are no credible threats to District holiday events through the end of the year.***

Nonetheless, District public safety agencies coordinate with regional and federal partners to ensure residents' and visitors' safety during the holiday season, the public should take proactive steps to ensure personal security. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) provides special attention to designated areas during the holiday season. Steps you can do include:

- Reporting suspicious activity to MPD by calling 911, 202-727-9099, or filing a report with [iwatchdc.dc.gov](http://iwatchdc.dc.gov). Signs of suspicious activity include:
  - People sketching or measuring entrances and other features of important buildings.
  - Strangers asking questions about building security features and procedures.
  - Briefcase, suitcase, backpack, or package left behind.
  - Cars or trucks left in No Parking zones in front of important buildings.
  - Chemical smells or fumes that are out of place for the location.
  - People requesting sensitive information, such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP travel schedules without a need to know.
  - Purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.
  - Taking photographs or videos of security features, such as security cameras or security check points.
- Visiting [ready.dc.gov](http://ready.dc.gov) to build a personal plan in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Staying informed by signing up for emergency alert and warning notifications via email, text, or voice. Visit [alertdc.dc.gov](http://alertdc.dc.gov) and click "Sign Up for Alerts."

***Recent international incidents, particularly vehicle-ramming attacks, underscore the persistent threat to public venues.*** Terrorists, and other radicalized individuals, view holiday events as appealing targets because of the large crowd size, religious symbolism, and accessibility.

- In July 2016, an ISIS-inspired extremist drove a truck through a crowd in Nice, France, killing 86 and injuring 458. Since then, there have been several vehicle attacks globally. For example, in December 2016, another ISIS-inspired individual drove a truck through a Christmas market in Berlin, Germany, killing 12 and injuring 56 and in October 2017, an ISIS-inspired extremist drove a truck through a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path in New York City, killing eight and injuring 11.
- In January 2017, an ISIS-inspired individual opened fire during a New Year's Eve celebration at a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 29 and injuring 70.

**Remember, if you see something, say something. You are the first line of defense.**

