

## [2 August 2019 Bangkok Attack](#)

On 6 August, a total of six bombs exploded at three locations in Bangkok, Thailand. Three bombs blew up at the Government Complex in Chaeng Wattana, and two exploded at the Chong Nonsi area. One failed to go off. The devices that exploded were the size of tennis balls, and are coined as “ping pong bombs”. The explosions left four people injured.

The attacks were carried out at a time when Bangkok was hosting a regional security meeting of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and representatives from the United States, China and Russia.

This attack serves as a crucial reminder that it is important to stay vigilant and to be prepared.

### [Step up vigilance accordingly prior to major events](#)

During the time of the attacks, Bangkok was hosting a major security summit, which was the 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. Large-scale events are a common target for terrorists, and implementing extra precautionary measures during this time can prevent an attack.

- Identify threats early before such events by looking out for potential attackers conducting questionable activities such as leaving items unattended near the workplace. Threats can be detected by measures such as CCTV systems, intrusion detection systems, and bag checks. If necessary, conduct more thorough security checks on visitors to the workplace.
- If the company will be hosting a major event such as a large-scale seminar, deploy more security personnel to patrol the workplace premises.

### [Learn how to identify suspicious persons, articles, and vehicles](#)

In Bangkok, one bomb was recovered by the police before it exploded. It is important for staff members to know how to identify tell-tale indicators of suspicious articles so that they can notify authorities and stop an attack in its tracks.

#### **Know how to identify suspicious articles:**

- Items left unattended in odd areas at the workplace. In Bangkok, the “ping pong bombs” were left in bushes by the streets.
- Items that require excessive usage of securing materials such as string or adhesive tape.
- Items with the following characteristics: stains or discoloration, emitting traces of unusual odour, emitting a ticking sound, wires sticking out.

**To find out how to identify suspicious persons and vehicles, please refer to the [briefing slides](#) on the MOM SGSecure@Workplaces website.**

### [Building capabilities of frontline employees during peacetime](#)

- Out of the four injured individuals in Bangkok, three were cleaners. Employees who are the first point-of-contact such as cleaners, security guards and receptionists should undergo training to detect tell-tale indicators of security threats, and have developed processes to report to authorities.
- Employees who are the front-line staff would also benefit from being trained in basic first aid skills, in the event of any crises so they can help mitigate the injuries of affected colleagues in the event of a terror attack by applying their knowledge of “Press, Tie, Tell”.

## [3 August 2019 El Paso, Texas Attack](#)

On 3 August, 21-year-old Patrick Wood Crusius began his attack at a Walmart Supercentre at El Paso, Texas. Armed with a rifle, he fired on customers in the parking lot before entering the building. The mass shooting was motivated by white supremacist ideologies. Prior to the attack, Crusius also posted a manifesto and in it, he expressed support for Brenton Tarrant, who is the gunman behind the shooting attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The mass shooting resulted in 20 deaths, and 26 injured.

## [4 August 2019 Dayton, Ohio Attack](#)

On 4 August, 24-year-old Connor Betts conducted a mass shooting attack in a popular nightlife district of Dayton, Ohio that resulted in nine deaths, and 26 injured.

For both the Texas and Ohio attacks, the retail and entertainment sector was targeted. Hence, it is a reminder that we need to stay vigilant and know how to respond in the event of such attacks happening at our workplaces.

### [Lockdown premises if the attacker is still on the loose](#)

If there is an attacker in the vicinity, workplaces should lockdown and prevent access to the building. The following are general guidelines and best practices for having an effective lockdown:

- If the attacker is outdoors, head to the nearest building or office. Secure all interior and exterior doors by locking all doors and windows immediately. Switch off all lights and draw the blinds and curtains. If possible, also block doors with heavy items.
- Instruct all employees to stay low and away from windows and doors. Remain quiet so as to not draw attention.
- Notify the authorities as soon as possible. Call 999, or SMS 71999 if it is not safe to talk. You can also use the SGSecure app to report your situation.
- Do not leave the secured area until directed to do so by authorities such as the police.

### [Staying united in the aftermath of a terror attack](#)

In the aftermath of the attacks in Texas and Ohio, citizens gathered for vigils to express solidarity with the victims of the shootings. When a terror attack strikes, feelings of fear and distrust can affect the community. We should continue to foster workplace harmony and encourage the workforce to stay united in the aftermath of an attack. Some key points to consider are:

- Extend psychological first aid to fellow employees in emotional distress after a crisis.
- Workplaces can also encourage employees to verify news with official sources and not disseminate fake news. The circulation of fake news and disinformation at the workplace may increase fear, hatred and anger, which can sow discord in a multi-racial and multi-religious society such as Singapore.