

Surface Transportation Security Awareness Message



★ 1776 – 2026 · COMMEMORATING AMERICA'S 250TH ★



ATTENTION—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDERS

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is issuing this *Security Awareness Message* with the upcoming United States Semi-quincentennial (250th) Anniversary of Independence, including events categorized under America250 (A250), Freedom 250 (F250), Sail250® (S250), and several 2026 fireworks celebrations across America. Additional large events, such as the FIFA World Cup 2026™ and the MLB All-Star Game, will bring significant crowds and international participants, especially to host cities like Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Charleston, SC. Nationwide celebrations are expected to increase public activity and require heightened security awareness.

TSA's Intelligence Office is not aware of any specific or credible threats to A250 or other related events. However, lone offenders and small groups acting on a range of ideologies or personal grievances may seek to exploit high-profile, large events with little to no warning.

Physical Security Considerations:

- **Soft-target attacks** at transit stations, platforms, and onboard, including vehicle-ramming into crowds near transit access points.
- **Unattended items/Improvised Explosive Devices** during times of peak ridership, when normal patterns of activity are disrupted and suspicious items are harder to spot.
- **Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)** encroachments that occur over rail yards, stations, and event perimeters.
- **Insider threats and credential/uniform** misuse such as surge staffing, contractors, and event volunteers expand facility access.

Cross-Mode Awareness:

- **Public transportation and passenger rail** will carry large crowds to and from these events, resulting in busier stations, platforms, and buses that require heightened attention throughout this period.
- **Highway and motor carrier** vehicle ramming is a leading physical threat to crowds, parades, and celebratory gatherings, with commercial trucks and motorcoaches serving as attractive vectors. Refer to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) vehicle-ramming and crowded-places resources for additional information.
- **Ferry and maritime** operations will see increased activity during waterfront events and with increased ridership and shoreline crowds. TSA encourages coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard for enhanced security measures.
- **Freight railroad** operators should monitor HAZMAT routing and staging near event corridors, watch for right-of-way trespassers, and consider monitoring grade crossings along parade routes.

TSA **encourages** surface transportation stakeholders, to the extent practicable, to take the following actions:

- Review plans and procedures for mitigation of common attack types, such as vehicle ramming, active shooter or edged weapon attacks.
- Remind employees to follow “If You **See** Something, **Say** Something®” guidance by promptly reporting suspicious inquiries or activities according to company policy.
- Brief frontline staff on suspicious activity indicators and review reporting procedures to ensure employees have clear, updated protocols and contact information for company security personnel, local law

Surface Transportation Security Awareness Message

enforcement, the [local FBI field office](#), and TSA's Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC) at (866) 615-5150 to facilitate timely reporting of suspicious activities.

- Increase visible deterrence through patrols, random bag inspection, explosives-detection K-9 sweeps, and counter-surveillance, coordinated with local law enforcement.
- Re-verify access controls and credentials, and brief staff on common social engineering techniques.
- Review unattended-item, evacuation, and family-reunification procedures; confirm radio interoperability with responding agencies.
- Review UAS incident reporting procedures and confirm which agency has detection and mitigation authority in your jurisdiction.

Resources:

- [TSA Surface Transportation Resources](#) (including STRIDE, [TSA First Observer Plus](#))
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Mass Gatherings: Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places](#)
- CISA [Vehicle Ramming and Securing Public Gatherings resources](#)
- [Operation RAILS SAFE](#) (Amtrak Police)
- [RAILSAFE Partner Training Program](#)
- DHS ["If You See Something, Say Something®"](#)
- [Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative](#)
- [DHS National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\)](#)
- [America250](#) and [Sail4th 250](#) event calendar and host-city information for scheduled activities and locations
- Additional resources pertaining to trending threats can be found on the [Homeland Security Information Network \(HSIN\)](#), which includes (but is not limited to):
 - (U//FOUO) The United States of America's Semiquincentennial Anniversary and 4th of July Fireworks Events

New — TSA STRIDE (June 2026)

TSA's free STRIDE mobile app gives surface transportation stakeholders one-stop access to security resources, directives, and materials on Android and iOS. Download and distribute to frontline supervisors.



For public transportation and passenger rail operators, Operation RAILS SAFE is scheduled for July 2, 2026. State and local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to increase security and visibility at transit stations, railroad stations, and railroad rights-of-way. This coordinated effort, led by the Amtrak Police Department, New York City Police Department, and TSA, deploys officers at stations and along rights-of-way with heightened patrols, K-9 explosives sweeps, random bag inspections, and counter-surveillance on selected high-volume travel days.

Thank you for your continued partnership in maintaining heightened situational awareness and operational readiness during the upcoming United States Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary of Independence and related events.

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