

# QUICK GUIDE TO SECURING TEMPORARY SITES

## FACT SHEET



## Introduction

It can be challenging to protect a temporary site within the construction industry. From a lack of infrastructure to forming a secure perimeter, protecting your temporary location is not always an easy task.

In this guide, we provide an introduction to securing temporary sites - what considerations should be made and what best practice looks like.

## Background

Temporary sites are employed for varying uses, spanning multiple industries and sectors. These can range from makeshift hospitals, construction projects where permanent buildings are not necessary or feasible, through to sporting events and music festivals to offer shelter or provide suitable eating areas. Such buildings, erected quickly and for a limited amount of time, are becoming more common, yet are often poorly secured, largely as a result of traditional surveillance solutions being deemed too costly and complex to install in a non-permanent setting. This lack of protection can lead to theft and criminal damage, and can ultimately leave people vulnerable.

Physical security has advanced considerably in recent years, moving away from legacy standalone CCTV systems to modern digital video surveillance technologies. These IoT enabled devices are capable of providing high quality video and live data that can be analysed to produce powerful insights. Such solutions also offer an ease of connectivity that can mean moving away from wired networks to utilise mobile connectivity. This provides more scope for the protection of structures in areas where cabled network connections are not possible. This makes security achievable in even the most remote locations.

## Quickly Deployable Solutions for High Pressure Environments

Demands for physical security systems that are not only quick and easy to deploy, but also offer flexibility to adapt to different needs, are increasing. The latest solutions represent a cost-effective and high-quality option in settings where the alternative choice usually means having no security provision at all.

Surveillance becomes crucial in safeguarding valuable assets such as equipment, data, and other supplies. Security cameras, combined with audio, can serve to detect and deter those attempting to enter a site without authorisation, with visual detection triggering either an automated audio response or a live control room operator warning. The addition of access control technology allows greater control of entrance and exit points, minimising the risk of criminals gaining access to a site, but also useful in restricting public access where the spread of COVID-19 or other contagions are a concern.



## Loss Prevention and Monitoring for Health and Safety

A security solution that does not rely on network cables or static power sources can provide a truly flexible, scalable and reliable surveillance system. In the construction industry, at road construction sites and other temporary locations, intrusion, interruption, and injury are three of the most common threats. Dedicated surveillance systems make high quality, remotely managed supervision possible, thereby minimising risk. Using surveillance and audio technologies to alert teams to danger can prove invaluable from a health and safety perspective, helping to avoid accidents, while also documenting high quality video of any situation to aid incident investigation.



In addition, security solutions used at the perimeter of a site or working area can secure against unauthorised access, vandalism, and the theft of materials, tools and machinery. The construction industry suffers millions of pounds in losses each year due to vandalism and theft, so taking effective measures to protect the assets held at non-permanent locations and within temporary structures helps mitigate this. Such surveillance solutions provide high quality 24-hour incident detection, are cost-effective, and are easily set up and maintained.



## Smart Technologies for any situation

Being able to effectively secure temporary sites and the structures within them presents a huge leap forward in the capabilities of physical security solutions. With businesses and operations securely guarded when away from a fixed premises or site, the possibilities afforded by temporary sites increase when security limitations are removed. Modern business models allow customisable and scalable solutions which can be delivered to meet exact requirements, meaning that video surveillance, IP audio, access control and remote management are now feasible across any site and in any configuration.

## Key Considerations in Securing Temporary Sites

The prevention of unauthorised access to temporary sites must be taken seriously. Site security should be at the top of the priority list for any site manager. To maximise construction site security, we suggest the following considerations be made.

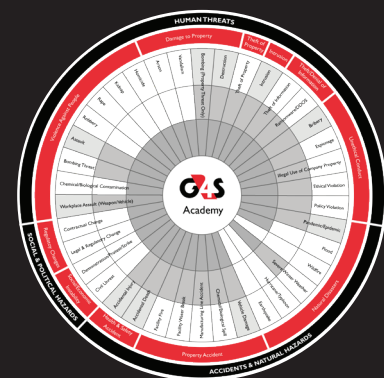
### Carry out a Risk Analysis

Before committing to any security based solutions, it's advisable to first carry out a risk analysis; this can either be done in house or through an external provider like G4S. In general, a risk analysis should take into account:

- What is it that you are trying to protect?
- What is it that you are trying to protect it from?
- How do you most effectively protect it?

For each of the points and policies arising from the assessment, further investment can be put in place to reduce or mitigate risk.

One key point with risk analysis is that it should remain a continuous process, not just annually but as the site changes.



### Ensure that the Perimeter is Secured

There should be a primary focus on investing in systems that stop theft happening in the first place, rather than a recording device such as CCTV, which usually only helps provide evidence after the incident. Secure fencing and gates should be installed and suited to the purpose of the site. Temporary work sites with minimal equipment can suffice with a temporary 'Heras' style fence, whereas complex sites in city centres may need palisade or mesh.

Regularly check these throughout the life of the temporary site to ensure that they are not damaged. Particularly with temporary fencing, it's all too easy to remove sections to allow loading/unloading and then forget to close them – leaving the site exposed. You also may need to take extra precautions to secure the site perimeter if it's within or near an area such as a school or public facility. Systems that automatically check for continuity in the fence line should be considered if this is the case.



## Manned Guarding

One of the best methods to secure sites is by using manned guarding. This can be provided through permanent staff (on a temporary or longer term basis) or mobile response where staff will attend site periodically. Generally, despite being the most expensive option, it is very hard to beat the effectiveness of physical attendance. Using a comprehensive provider like G4S also means trained guards can be provided for other things during the same visit, thereby reducing supply chain and costs. For extra security, guards can also be asked to badge at check points to provide an audit trail of their patrols should there be an incident.

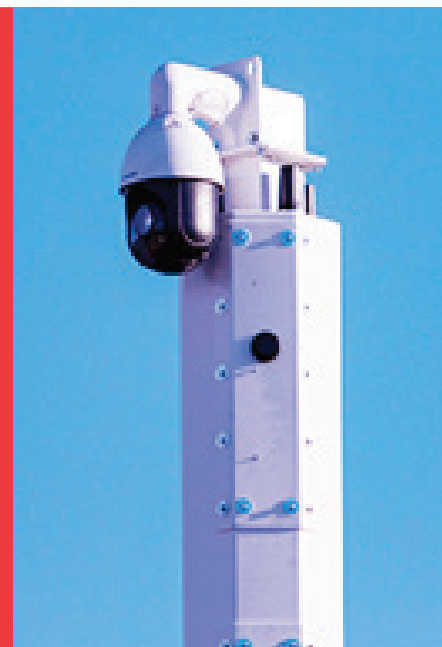


## CCTV Security

CCTV can provide a comprehensive way of tracking who enters a temporary site, offering significant cost savings over manned guards. Stand alone CCTV works well both as a deterrent and to provide evidence for incidents. For more complex sites, the system can be linked to a monitoring control room. Operators receive alerts based on the motion detected by cameras, and can provide audio talk back to warn intruders that they are being watched and force them off site, or even request attendance from police or a mobile guard patrol.

For sites left vacant on a temporary basis, surveillance towers can be supplied at short notice with limited investment, without a significant contractual commitment. These towers can use a 4G SIM to provide continuous surveillance to an onsite or offsite control room. What's more, the towers can be solar powered which means they do not require access to a regular source of electricity.

G4S has been installing CCTV and surveillance control rooms for many years, for a vast variety of clients. Learn more about our UK leading CCTV monitoring service on our website, or contact us using the contact details below.



## Have incident response Protocols in Place, for all levels of breach

All too frequently, minor security breach incidents are not responded to properly by staff. Small incidents such as trespassing often go unreported and are ignored. This leads to them not being followed up, or addressed in the future to reduce the chances of them happening again.

A proper incident response plan should be formulated and rigorously followed to handle incidents at every level. This will help to constantly improve on site processes. An effective incident response plan can keep staff aware of what security systems are in place and how to operate them. Too often we see sites only reviewing their CCTV after a serious incident, only to find it wasn't working, was unfit for purpose, or staff hadn't followed procedure simply because they weren't aware.





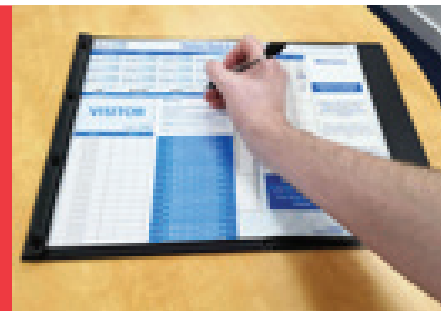
## Implement thorough Work Policies

As part of the risk analysis, companies should develop policies that help mitigate identified risks. Something simple such as ensuring that tools are not left on site during out of hours, will help reduce not only the chances of theft, but also the chances of serious injury or death for intruders.



## Implement a Sign In and Out Policy

Thorough management and documentation of who enters and leaves the site is essential for security. The management of all site entry points will help increase site security, ensuring that no unauthorised personnel are on site. Compulsory staff badges can also be implemented to make sure that everybody on site is accounted for. As with other work policies, this is something that should be clearly outlined in site inductions.



## Make sure you Accompany Visitors

With many temporary sites having frequent visitors on a daily basis, staff may sometimes let site visitors walk around on their own. This is particularly the case with repeat visitors. However, letting site visitors walk around alone poses a security and safety risk. Even if you are sure of a visitor's identity, you must always bear in mind that they are not a member of the site. This means they could potentially be a threat to site security if left alone, as they could potentially commit theft or pose a safety risk to themselves or others.



## Need help to find out more?

If you need help to determine how to secure your temporary sites in the most cost effective way, G4S can help. G4S has a UK Fire and Security design team with over 15 engineers and a combined experience of over 120 years. As a result, G4S has the experience and expertise to advise you on the best temporary site solution for you.

**Please contact us to find out more.**

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<https://www.g4s.com/en-gb/what-we-do/academy>



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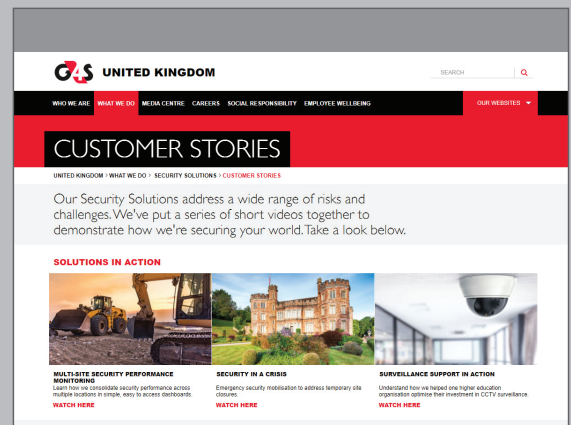
Our Innovation Forum where we work closely with our customers to discuss new security issues and how best to address emerging trends and technologies



Our Podcasts where we support continuous professional development through engaging debate - available at your leisure

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