

HAMPSHIRE SCOUTING

STAYING SAFE ON TRIPS OUT

In the light of the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, we wanted to share advice and guidance to Districts and Groups about how to safe while on trips.

Although the risk is low, the impact of being caught up in an attack is high, and so it's worth us taking time as leaders to think through in advance how to handle a situation which we hope will never happen.

Our advice is to follow in detail the existing Scout Association safety procedures - and supplement these for the current threat of terrorist incidents.

1. Assess the Risk

Ensure you carry out a risk assessment for all trips to London, cities, airports, tourist attractions, sports events, pop concerts, and other major venues. See the Scout Association guidance on how to conduct a risk assessment in the factsheet at <http://members.scouts.org.uk/factsheets/FS120000.pdf>.

In particular, consider

- the current UK government threat level - <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels> - especially if it goes to "Critical"
- checking the threat level immediately before you depart
- the location(s) being visited and whether they present an especially high risk
- how to stay vigilant during the trip

2. Follow Safe Scouting Guidance

Review the POR rules on activities and leader ratios and ensure you are complying with these. See sections 9.1-9.4 at <http://scouts.org.uk/media/819417/Chapter-9.pdf>.

In particular, ensure

- the District / County Commissioner has approved the trip (including day trips to London and other major venues and has details
- there is a clearly identified leader (and deputy) in charge of the trip
- you have enough leaders for the trip and meet the leader ratios in POR
- there is a designated and trained first aider and you are carrying a first aid kit with you at all times

3. Implement the In-Touch Procedure

Follow the In-Touch procedure including thinking through how everyone will communicate in the event of an emergency. See the In-Touch system at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/FS120075>

In particular, consider

- assessing whether the home contact would be able to handle the difficult situation of a group being involved in a terrorist attack
- having more than one defined home contact during the trip
- the home contact(s) having all leader and parent contact details
- mobile phones being carried with emergency numbers programmed in
- registering mobile phones for emergency 999 text messages at http://www.emergencysms.org.uk/registering_your_mobile_phone.php

4. Being prepared for an Incident

See the “Safe Scouting & What to Do in an Emergency...” purple card at <http://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/activities/purplecard.pdf>.

In particular, ensure

- there is a defined lodge / six / patrol structure with a designated adult
- there are primary and backup defined gathering points in case of an emergency
- you can communicate if the mobile phone network was taken down (as can happen during a major incident)
- leaders are aware of the Run / Hide / Tell advice from the police – see http://www.npcc.police.uk/StaySafeAssets/NPCC_CT_A5%202pp.pdf

We all hope that Hampshire Scouting will never be impacted by a terrorist attack – and we don’t want to dissuade people from going on trips or cause leaders undue concern.

However, by thinking through the “what-ifs” before the trip, you will be better prepared in the unlikely event of a major incident.

***Adam Jollans, County Commissioner
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Hampshire Scouting***