



INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 06/03/19

Securitas Intelligence Unit (SIU)

Operational Guidance following identification of a "Suspicious Package"

This operational guidance follows on from the SIU update on 5th March 2019. If you were to identify a "suspicious package" within your workplace environment would you know what to do?

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) in collaboration with the College of Policing provide an "Aide Memoire" to assist with early assessment of packages. They utilise the mnemonic;

"PROTECTS"

Using the "PROTECTS" assessment tool the Securitas Intelligence Unit have adapted the advice for businesses and those working in protective security services. Using the PROTECTS to relay information allows emergency services to act quickly and enhances the safety of personnel on site.

Place – Where is the package? Emergency services will need to know the type of business involved. Is it near transport hubs, crowded places or major communications infrastructure?

Request Intelligence – Is your business/location a target for a reason? Any recent incidents? Any threats to the location in recent days? This is information on site teams should be aware of.

Obtain Informant – Person on site who identified the package (witness). This should be direct contact, witness to emergency call handler (not through third party). The emergency call handler will question the witness to obtain vital information that is not always obvious.

Think Safety – Do not use mobile phones or radios near to package. Avoid direct contact with package. Monitor the health of those who have been in contact with package.

Evaluate – What has made this package appear suspicious? Is it the location? Is it disguised? Is it not expected? Does it match any pre-warned criteria for suspicion? (In the case of 5th March 2019 does it have similar markings to photos of previous packages released by the police?)

Confirm and Withdraw – confirm where the object is, its size, colour, descriptive detail as best you can without handling the item. Try to note any writing on the packaging, seals or distinctive markings. Clear all personnel from the immediate area to a "safe zone" – consider leaving the building or using fire assembly points if suitably located.

Transmit – Call the emergency services and give them the information you have. Ensure that those directly involved in identification of the package are able to speak to the call handler and answer questions.

Scene Actions – Tell the emergency services what actions you have taken to move personnel to safety and to secure the package. Listen to advice given by the call handler. Nominate a point of contact for arriving emergency teams, ensure they remain contactable throughout.

If you would like any further information on any of the elements mentioned in this bulletin, please email the Securitas intelligence Unit at: