

15 March 2019 Christchurch Attack

On 15 March, a 28-year-old Australian terrorist initiated a shooting attack at Al Noor Mosque during Friday prayers, before driving to Linwood Mosque to conduct his second attack. Motivated by right-wing extremist ideology, he utilised semi-automatic firearms and multiple ammunition clips to shoot at worshippers indiscriminately at both mosques. He also live-streamed the massacre at the mosques using Facebook live for 17 minutes.

At least 50 people were killed, and 50 others injured, making it the deadliest terror attack in New Zealand's history.

Know how to respond in the event of an attack

Lockdown premises if the attacker is still on the loose

Following the first attack, the attacker was on the loose for almost 40 minutes before the security forces were able to apprehend him. 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. 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.
- Switch off all lights and draw the blinds and curtains. Turn off all mobile phones, laptops, and electronics.
- 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.

Step up vigilance

After the Christchurch attack, terrorist groups such as ISIS have called for retaliatory attacks. It is important for workplaces to continue to be vigilant and step up the security of the workplace in the immediate aftermath of an attack. Some immediate steps workplaces can take include:

- Remind employees to keep a look out for and alert security or the police if they spot any suspicious persons, vehicles or objects .
- Remind employees of the evacuation routes of the building as well as effective hiding spots at the workplace.
- Increase security patrols around the workplace. If necessary, conduct more thorough security checks on visitors to the workplace.

Foster workplace harmony and encourage workforce to stay united

When a terror attack strikes, feelings of fear, anxiety and stress can affect the community. It is important to continue to foster workplace harmony and encourage the workforce to stay united in the aftermath of an attack. Some key points to consider are:

- Following the attack, there have been numerous reports of people coming together to reject the act of terror and show support for the victims' families. Workplaces can similarly encourage workers to help and show support for their colleagues who may be affected by an attack.
- Following the live-streaming of the Christchurch attack on Facebook, videos of the attack were also circulated online. Spreading such content may be insensitive towards those affected by the attack and can ignite feelings of trauma and distress within others. Workplaces can help to remind employees to be sensitive and discourage them from disseminating media with disturbing content.
- 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.



Adopt the recommendations under the SGSecure Guide for Workplaces www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure-guide



Sign up for the enhanced bizSAFE training at www.wshc.sg/bizSAFE to learn about risk management measures



Encourage your stakeholders to register their SGSecure rep with MOM at www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure to receive the latest updates and advisories



Refer to the advisories providing general principles on contingency planning and protective security <https://www.sgsecure.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/contingency-planning-and-protective-security-advisories-for-workplaces.pdf>