



## 21 April 2019 Sri Lanka Bombing Attacks

On 21 April 2019, a co-ordinated attack of eight bomb blasts ripped through churches and luxury hotels in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Four explosions struck St. Anthony's Shrine, Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels just before 9am as worshippers attended Easter Sunday morning services and tourists were having breakfast. Shortly after, St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo and Zion Church in the eastern town of Batticaloa, were targeted. In the afternoon, another hotel in the south of Colombo exploded, and a suicide bomber killed three police officers as they raided a house in the northern suburbs.

The attacks have killed more than 250 people thus far and injured at least 500 more, making it the worst violence to hit Sri Lanka since its devastating civil war ended in 2009.

### **Step up security and vigilance following an attack**

Sri Lanka authorities stepped up security measures and increased vigilance. A day after the bombing, a ninth bomb packed inside a six-foot-long pipe, was discovered near the road leading to Sri Lanka's International Airport. It was successfully defused by the Sri Lanka authorities.

Workplaces can consider the following steps to increase your security measures and vigilance following an attack:

- Deploy more security personnel to patrol the buildings
- Constantly train, remind and exercise employees on what to do during crisis, and in any aftermath, consider conducting refresher briefings to familiarise employees on evacuation and lockdown plans for different types of crises, ranging from fire to weapons attack or use of improvised explosive devices (IED)
- Ensure security personnel are trained and have the necessary skills and resources to deter, detect, delay or deny the threat. You can refer to Police's Contingency Planning and Protective Security Advisories for Workplaces for more details.
- Identify threats early by looking out for potential attackers conducting reconnaissance or suspicious persons loitering. Threats can be detected by measures such as CCTV systems, intrusion detection systems, and bag and person checks.

### **Stay in touch with the latest developments**

A state of emergency was declared in Sri Lanka following the attack, to allow security forces extensive powers to detain and interrogate suspects, without court orders. An overnight curfew was also put into effect.

It is important for workplaces to be updated with the latest developments in order to mitigate the impact to their operations.

Workplaces can do so by downloading the SGSecure app and regularly check the websites of the relevant authorities for the latest information and developments during an emergency.

Workplaces should also continue to make sure details of their SGSecure representatives are updated with MOM, so that important information can reach them through the representatives if necessary.

### **Step forward to help out and stay united**

In the aftermath of the attack, there were numerous reports of people stepping up to help. For example, the call for blood donors saw a massive turnout of people to support the blood donation drive for the wounded.

Workplaces can also step forward to assist the community in recovering. For example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like in the wake of the Bastille Day attack in Nice in 2016, where hotels offered shelter to people who were stranded and unable to get home safely. F&B stores can also offer food and water to those affected, similar to what a bakery have done in New Zealand, in the aftermath of the Christchurch terror attack in March this year.

Staying united in the aftermath of an attack is the only way we will make it through the grief, and come out stronger.

	Adopt the recommendations under the SGSecure Guide for Workplaces <a href="http://www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure-guide">www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure-guide</a>
	Sign up for the enhanced bizSAFE training at <a href="http://www.wshc.sg/bizSAFE">www.wshc.sg/bizSAFE</a> to learn about risk management measures
	Scan to register your SGSecure rep with MOM or visit <a href="http://www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure">www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure</a> to receive the latest updates and advisories
	Refer to the advisories providing general principles on contingency planning and protective security <a href="http://www.sgsecure.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/contingency-planning-and-protective-advisories-for-workplaces.pdf">www.sgsecure.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/contingency-planning-and-protective-advisories-for-workplaces.pdf</a>
	Refer to guidelines on dynamic lockdown at <a href="http://www.police.gov.sg/~media/spf/files/resources/dynamic_lockdown_brochure.pdf">www.police.gov.sg/~media/spf/files/resources/dynamic_lockdown_brochure.pdf</a>