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 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 checking for the latest updates and advisories.

Stay in touch with the latest developments

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 example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims, like example, hotels can come forward to provide temporary shelter for victims.

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 crises, and in any aftermath, consider conducting refresher briefings to familiarise employees on evacuation and lockdown plans for different types of crises, ranging from fires 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 Guide to 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.

Adopt the recommendations under the SGSecure Guide for Workplaces

- Sign up for the enhanced bizSAFE training at www.wshc.sg/bizSAFE to learn about risk management measures
- Scan to register your SGSecure rep with MOM or visit www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure

Contact the police if you observe suspicious activity:

- Scan to register your SGSecure rep with MOM or visit www.mom.gov.sg/sgsecure

Stay Alert, Stay United and Stay Strong. Be part of the SGSecure movement.