



# Securing Outdoor Spaces

**Securing outdoor spaces requires a different set of considerations than indoor spaces.**

Properties can have hundreds, or even thousands, of outdoor acres to secure. Standard indoor security solutions—like locks, access control, and intrusion alarms—have little impact outdoors. From parking lots to exercise trails, outdoor areas need a different approach for protecting them.



## SECURITY LAYERS ARE IMPERATIVE

There is no one technology capable of handling all outdoor campus emergencies. It's all about layering multiple solutions.

# Considerations for Outdoor Security

Methods used to protect building interiors are different than those used to secure outdoor spaces. Emergency stations, low-light cameras, and other equipment – even landscaping – can be utilized as effective security enhancements.

## Parking Lots and Garages

When facilities cannot be regularly patrolled, having call points where people can reach help provides a sense of security in vast parking lots.



## Outdoor Facilities

It's easy to overlook walking trails and other outbuildings. These are not only frequent targets for illegal activity, but tend to be areas where health-related assistance may be necessary.



## Surrounding Neighborhoods

Other environments, open space, and traffic patterns can impact your security needs and response plan, and should be included in an overall strategy.



## Annexes and Urban Campuses

Remote annexes and larger urban campuses present more of a security and communication challenge. Look for network-based security systems to bring information into a centralized security operations center.



# Security Layers for Outdoors

Best practices call for layers of security, each contributing to protecting people in an outdoor environment.

There are many proven security solutions to help keep people safe in large outdoor spaces. From multideck parking lots to enormous corporate courtyards; securing these areas can be challenging.



Industry best practices call for multiple layers of security, each specialized and contributing to protecting people in outdoor environments.

Security layers for outdoor spaces commonly include video surveillance cameras, prominent signage, emergency towers and call boxes, as well as CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design).



## Video Surveillance Cameras

Video surveillance cameras can provide real-time forensic views of a campus and act as a deterrent to criminals.

Video surveillance should cover building entries, perimeters, hallways, and stairwells. Outdoor security cameras should monitor parking lots/garages, main thoroughfares, walking trails, and other remote areas.

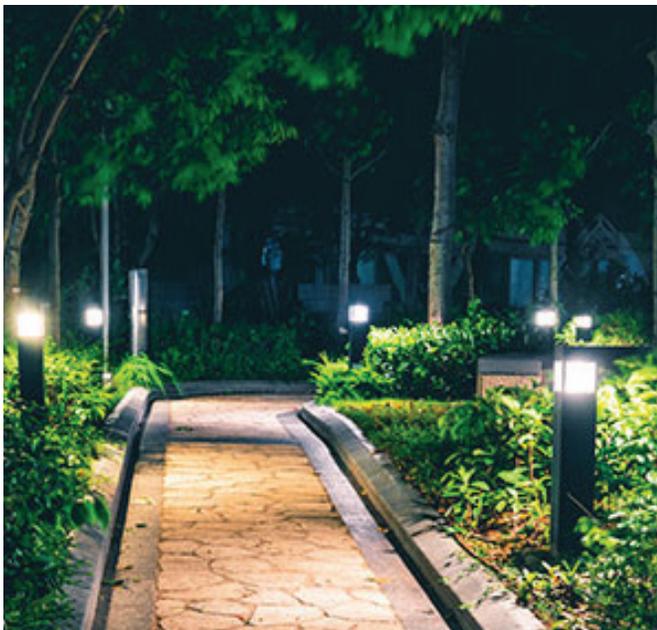
Security cameras are ideal for confirming or disproving liability claims and help with training and compliance issues.



## Signage

Prominent signage at all main entries and throughout a property should remind everyone they are under surveillance. Don't overlook the importance of clear signage. Lost or confused drivers and pedestrians are easy targets for criminals.

Signage helps visitors locate parking lots, and other facilities. Make sure signs have easy-to-read fonts, have consistent messages, and are highly visible.



## CPTED

CPTED, or crime prevention through environmental design can often help deter crime, or simply improve visibility, which in turn, increases safety. Trimming back bushes and trees to deny criminals hiding

places is a good idea. Adding lighting and replacing burned-out bulbs helps. Fences and gates help keep people away from potentially dangerous areas.



## Emergency Towers and Stations

Emergency towers are another highly-effective electronic security solution. Emergency stations are ideal for all outdoor areas, such as parking lots and garages, large open spaces or courtyards, or near elevators.

Typically topped with a bright blue light, these easily recognizable towers enable immediate contact with security. Built-in intercoms provide two-way communication, and video intercoms provide security with real-time video, helpful in assessing situations. Some intercoms can be integrated with existing surveillance cameras for a broader view of the area.

# Emergency Stations

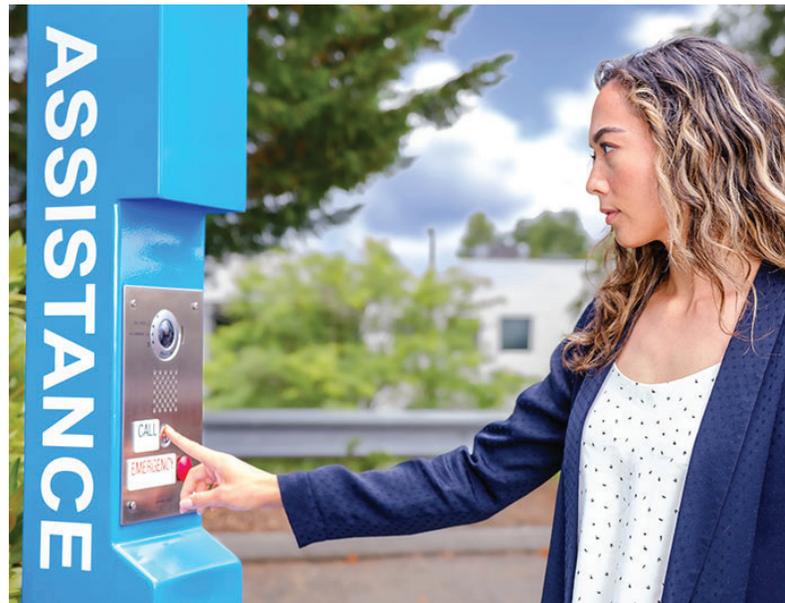
Emergency stations are easy to spot with their bright blue lights. Distressed parties can use these stations to call for help.

## Emergency Towers and Call Stations

Police and security staff need all the information they can get when assessing a threat. This is why video intercoms are effective.



Built-in high-resolution lenses can provide clear, real-time visibility to remote areas. Infrared technology can provide good images even in very dim light.



Video intercoms provide two-way conversations, while the built-in cameras help dispatchers make decisions about how to respond to an emergency. Dispatchers immediately know the station's precise location when calls for assistance arrive.

CCTV camera arms enable a second IP security camera be attached and provide a broader view of the area. The stations also have a non-emergency call button for those needing directions or other non-emergency information.

## SAFETY TIP

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If possible, keep two emergency stations within view from any building. The nearest option may not always be the best choice in case of an emergency.

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# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Fencing, gates, lighting, and landscaping are easy to overlook in designing a robust security plan. But CPTED can make a good plan even better.

## Lighting, Fencing, and Trees

Lighting is important along pathways, in parking lots and garages, and surrounding building perimeters. It not only deters criminals, but allows security to get a better view of areas while using a security camera or video intercom.

Fencing and locked gates keep people from wandering into dangerous areas and can be used to funnel them into preferred building entries.



## BEST PRACTICE

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CPTED measures are among the least expensive ways to enhance security. Be sure to include these ideas in your security plan.

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Trees or large bushes along the perimeter should be removed so they can't be used to climb over fences. Landscaping and foliage should be trimmed to not block views of doors and windows from the street. Low, thorny bushes directly beneath ground-floor windows can help discourage criminals from climbing through windows.

## Bollards

Sturdy concrete blocks or barriers, also known as bollards, help protect entries and pedestrian trails from taking a direct hit from a vehicle. Bollards can be designed to serve as planters, trash receptacles, or benches, and blend in with the landscape plan.



## Seek Expert Level Guidance

There is no one technology, device or service capable of handling all outdoor campus emergencies. It's all about layering multiple solutions. The synergy of video surveillance, emergency towers and intercoms, and CPTED all combine to make a more secure property.

How much of each layer is required will vary on the size, location, and other factors on each campus. A risk assessment, conducted by an experienced security professional, can help any campus pinpoint its security strengths and weaknesses.

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Assessing Risk  
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