

Best Practice: Warning Signs Posted in More Than One Language



Category:	Security Infrastructure
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Description: The facility posts warning signs in three of the primary languages spoken in the region: Malay, Chinese and English. Signs are posted outside the vehicle and pedestrian gates of the facility to warn persons and vehicles approaching the facility of safety and security requirements, and that it is a restricted area.

Discussion: The posting of warning signs at various access points to a facility provides multiple benefits to facility security. Providing the signs in multiple languages greatly increases these benefits and effectiveness of the signs in a country and region where multiple languages are commonly spoken. Visitors approaching the facility will know it is a restricted area and that they cannot enter unless they meet the posted requirements. This provides a first line voluntary screening tool to help restrict persons not meeting the requirements from attempting to enter the facility. Posting signs also provide the facility and law enforcement agencies with evidence that persons approaching the facility were clearly placed on notice as to the restrictions and prohibitions inside the facility in the event the facility later needs to fire or prosecute violators of these regulations. Restricted area or No Trespassing signs posted on the outside of perimeter fences, on sea walls, or on buoys in the water adjacent to the terminal also place approaching persons and vessels on notice that they are entering a restricted area, which will either cause them to turn them away, or provide facility security with reasonable cause to approach, stop, or search persons entering the restricted area.

Potential Down-side: Signs may become cluttered and confusing to the reader if not printed properly or if adequate space is not given to display the message in each language.

Conclusion: The posting of warning signs in multiple languages is a very effective, low cost means for communicating security and safety information to incoming employees, passengers, and visitors. Posting “Protected Area” and “No Admittance to Unauthorized Persons” signs significantly assists law enforcement and security officers to establish reasonable cause to stop, search, and detain persons who violate the posted signs.

Cost: Signs can be purchased commercially, custom ordered, or hand made. High visibility weather resistant signs can cost as little as four dollars apiece.