

Best Practice: Using Concrete Barricades to Protect Restricted Areas



Category: Perimeter Control

Location First

Observed: Freeport, Bahamas

Date First

Observed: July, 2005

Description: The facility placed high visibility concrete barriers around their emergency generator shed inside the port to prevent a vehicle from ramming the shed and disabling their emergency power source.

Discussion: Concrete barriers are a low-cost high-value protective feature that can be used in a myriad of ways to protect sensitive or valuable elements in a port, both outside and inside the perimeter gate. They are most effective against vehicles when they have an internal steel form to give them strength and shape. Concrete barriers do not need to be installed into the ground, and can be moved with heavy fork-lift trucks when needed. Painting them in high-visibility colors helps to prevent vehicles from accidentally hitting them. They can also be painted with signs or lettering to define a “closed” or “restricted” area. Concrete barriers can be commercially purchased, or manufactured in-house. Leaving gaps between adjacent concrete barriers is useful for permitting pedestrians to pass between them, but can also permit bicycles and motorcycles to pass through. Concrete barriers placed behind a fence line provides protection against a vehicle ramming and knocking down a fence.

Potential Down-side: Concrete barriers can be moved with heavy trucks, and can be shifted out of place by unauthorized persons with access to the correct equipment, and will not protect against all types of vehicles.

Conclusion: There are a number of security and safety applications for which concrete barriers can be effectively employed to prevent vehicles from entering restricted or unsafe areas.

Cost: \$100 - \$ 200 apiece (USD)