

## **Case Study: Benefits of Physical Security Assessment for \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*.**

**Background:** \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\* engaged Grab The Axe (GTA) to conduct a comprehensive internal and external physical security assessment. The assessment aimed to evaluate the security posture of their infrastructure in comparison to industry best practices, with a specific focus on physical security.

### **Key Findings:**

1. **External Inspection:** GTA identified vulnerabilities related to access doors, lighting, animal access, and neighboring impediments. For instance, the main lobby doors did not secure completely, and poor lighting was observed in the parking area.
2. **Internal Inspection:** The assessment revealed concerns about unsecured medical supplies, inadequate interior access control, inactive security systems, lack of emergency planning, communication issues, and fire & safety checks.

### **Benefits of the Assessment:**

1. **Identification of Security Strengths:** The assessment highlighted the ongoing renovations and the installation of a multi-camera security system as strengths. The active staff presence was also noted as a deterrent to potential threats.
2. **Highlighting Areas for Improvement:** GTA provided actionable recommendations for each identified vulnerability. For instance, they suggested stabilizing main entry doors, securing medical supplies, improving lighting, and implementing a communication system for emergencies.
3. **Enhanced Safety Protocols:** Recommendations such as drafting an evacuation procedure, marking exits, and having a designated meeting place during emergencies can significantly enhance the safety of both staff and animals.
4. **Improved Animal Safety:** GTA's suggestions to secure the decorative cat area, lock animal quarantine rooms, and implement proper signage for each animal can ensure a safer environment for the animals.
5. **Comprehensive Documentation:** GTA provided \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\* with detailed reports, including area information, crime statistics, photographic documentation, and more. This comprehensive documentation can serve as a reference for future security enhancements.
6. **Cost Savings in the Long Run:** By identifying and addressing vulnerabilities early on, the rescue can potentially avoid costly security breaches, thefts, or damages in the future.
7. **Enhanced Reputation:** Ensuring a secure environment for both staff and animals can boost \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*'s reputation among stakeholders, donors, and the community.

8. **Compliance with Regulations:** Recommendations such as ensuring a clear 18-inch horizontal level below the ceiling for the sprinkler system and having fire extinguishers at specific distances align with OSHA regulations, ensuring \*\*\*\* \*\* remains compliant.

**Conclusion:** The physical security assessment conducted by GTA provided \*\*\*\* \*\* with a clear roadmap to enhance their security posture. By addressing the identified vulnerabilities and implementing the recommended measures, they can ensure a safer and more secure environment for its staff, animals, and assets. The assessment not only highlighted areas of concern but also showcased the organization's strengths, providing a balanced view of their current security status.