

## **Security Management Training of Intercollegiate Athletic Departments**

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On October 5, 2005, an explosion occurred outside a stadium with 84,000 spectators in attendance just before the half-time of a college football game played between the University of Oklahoma and Kansas State University. This incident was not terrorist related, but a suicide by a troubled youth. The young man had explosives strapped to his body, and only a small amount of explosives were detonated. No one besides the young man was injured or killed in this incident, but the possibilities of what could have happened sent alarming waves throughout the security and sporting event communities.

The question facing sport administrators is not if a future incident is going to happen, but when will the incident happen. Who is responsible for taking the security measures to prepare, prevent, deter, or delay a future terrorist attack on a sporting event or stadium? At the majority of colleges and universities, the athletic administration staff is responsible, within the scope of their job, for event management, “game day” operations, and security.

The purpose of this study was to document the level of training and professional development of the persons responsible for sporting events in intercollegiate athletics. The study targeted those that are responsible for event security and game day operations (assistant/associate/senior athletic directors) at Division 1A football schools (N=85).

This documentation of training and professional development will help in discovering the levels of athletic administration training needs for those responsible for “game day” operations and event security. This body of knowledge will also facilitate in finding the gaps in security management professional development of athletic department administration. These gaps, currently not discovered in recent literature, will aid in the future development of education, training, and certification programs that can be tailored to the gaps or needs of athletic departments. Future programs will help with the overall goals set forth by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM), and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in ensuring the safeguard of intercollegiate athletics.