

GUIDE

2025 EDITION

Outdoor Summer Safety

Creating safer spaces including parks, festivals, parades, parking lots, splash pads, event venues, and more.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
A Guide to Safer Outdoor Events	4
Incident Reports	23
ZeroEyes Gun Detections	29

Introduction

As summer ushers in sunshine, celebration, and shared experiences, public safety must remain a top priority. From bustling festivals and crowded parades to everyday destinations like parking lots, splash pads, and local parks, the outdoors is where people gather—and where risks can arise.

Since 2020, the ZeroEyes Gun Violence Research Center has recorded **3,497 gun-related incidents**, resulting in 1,085 fatalities and 2,413 injuries.

Alarming, the majority of this violence is happening outside.

58.6%
of gun-related
incidents
since 2020
occurred
outside



A Guide to Safer Outdoor Events

Ensuring safety at an outdoor event requires meticulous planning and consideration of strategic and tactical factors.

01 Layered Security

Layered security is an industry best practice when it comes to creating safe spaces. In outdoor spaces, creating these layers require additional considerations to protect event patrons, staff, and guests.

Best practices in layered security include:



KNOW YOUR PERIMETER

When it comes to protecting an outdoor space, you may have a well-defined area, or a large space with several open access points. Knowing where your event “begins and ends” is vital to being able to protect people in and around it. These perimeter considerations are impacted by:

- Urban, suburban, and rural settings
- Event time of day
- Event size
- Proximity to buildings, amenities, structures, etc.

Your perimeter may include things like concessions, restrooms, or other facilities, which may be available to the general public or reserved for private use by event attendees.

For larger spaces such as rallies, festivals, or parades, the perimeter can extend further to include parking areas, public transportation access points, and adjacent streets or parks, all of which should be factored into your security plan.

Also identify elevated vantage points, such as rooftops or parking structures, that could be used for unauthorized surveillance or as a threat position. Implement monitoring or restrict access to these areas as part of your security measures.



IMPORTANT

Restrict access to elevated vantage points that could be used for unauthorized surveillance or as a threat position

Advertisement

Human
verification
24/7/365

Plug-and-Protect Surveillance

ZeroLink™ is a fully independent security network designed to manage cameras without touching your existing IT infrastructure. It deploys in days, provides real-time alerts, and operates with minimal IT involvement, ensuring seamless protection for your most critical assets.

ZEROLINK

[LEARN MORE](#)

Regardless of your event location, size, or amenities, do the following to create a layered security approach:



ESTABLISH CLEAR ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS

Whether your outdoor event is free or has an admission fee, designate clear entryways and exit options for patrons. This can help you control security and alleviate attendees' confusion.



DETERMINE GATING AND ACCESS CONTROL

Your event may require controlled access, such as check-in or ticket purchase, which can include metal detectors, bag checks, or other means of screening for attendees.



PLAN AN INTERNAL SECURITY PRESENCE

Your internal security presence may include security guards, surveillance cameras, or plainclothes security support.



LEVERAGE EXISTING SECURITY CAMERAS

If the space you're using has existing outdoor security cameras, ensure someone monitors them, or leverage ZeroEyes' 24/7 gun detection system to secure the space.



VEHICLE ACCESS CONTROL

Consider using vehicle barriers such as bollards or crash-rated fencing to prevent unauthorized vehicle access into restricted areas.



SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

Implement clear and visible signage for entry, exit, and restricted zones to avoid confusion and guide attendees effectively.



PERIMETER MONITORING

Schedule periodic patrols along the perimeter by security staff to ensure real-time monitoring and deter unauthorized activity.



LIGHTING AND VISIBILITY

Ensure proper lighting around the perimeter for nighttime events to discourage unauthorized access and improve visibility for security personnel.



EMERGENCY ACCESS POINTS

Clearly mark and maintain accessible entry points for first responders to ensure rapid emergency response when needed.



02

The best security solution is one that is thought out and, when possible, even rehearsed. Events that involve outdoor spaces or a combination of location types can add complexity to planning.



COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT

Identify and evaluate potential threats, including theft, harassment, violence, and terrorism.



PACE PLANNING

Prepare for various scenarios with a PACE (Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency) plan:

- **Primary Plan:** Your main security strategy.
- **Alternate Plan:** A secondary plan to implement if the primary plan fails.
- **Contingency Plan:** Additional measures to take if both the primary and alternate plans are compromised.
- **Emergency Plan:** A detailed protocol for worst-case scenarios, including evacuation routes and emergency responses.

Modeling and planning



ESCAPE ROUTE PLANNING

Ensure safe and efficient evacuation options for all attendees:

- **Evacuation Route Mapping:** Clearly define and mark evacuation routes to facilitate quick exits during an emergency.
- **Signage and Visibility:** Ensure all escape routes are prominently marked and easily visible to attendees.
- **Emergency Drills:** Conduct practice drills with your security team to ensure everyone knows their roles and responsibilities during an evacuation.



TRAINING AND SIMULATION DRILLS

Regular training ensures your team is prepared for any situation:

- **Comprehensive Security Training:** Provide thorough training in threat detection, crowd control, and emergency response.
- **Simulation Exercises:** Conduct regular drills to practice responses to various scenarios, ensuring your team is prepared for real-life situations.



03

Continued monitoring of interior and perimeter spaces for outdoor events is a necessary layer in a successful security plan. There are several ways to monitor spaces and technologies that support these efforts.

Surveillance & Monitoring



VISUAL GUN DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

If your outdoor space has security cameras or you can install them at the perimeter or other areas, consider ZeroEyes visual gun detection tech.

Benefits of ZeroEyes Visual Gun Detection Technology



- > Works with your existing security cameras, reducing the need for additional infrastructure
- > Human-verified detections to prevent false alarms
- > Operates 24/7/365 for continuous threat monitoring
- > Respects privacy and prevents bias through non-invasive detection methods
- > Enhances existing camera infrastructure with proactive gun detection capabilities
- > Provides real-time threat alerts directly to security personnel and local police to enable faster responses
- > Integrates seamlessly with existing security systems and emergency response protocols
- > Offers coverage for both indoor and outdoor spaces, ensuring versatile application



DRONE SURVEILLANCE

Depending on the type of event you're hosting, you may want to include drone surveillance, as it allows you to:

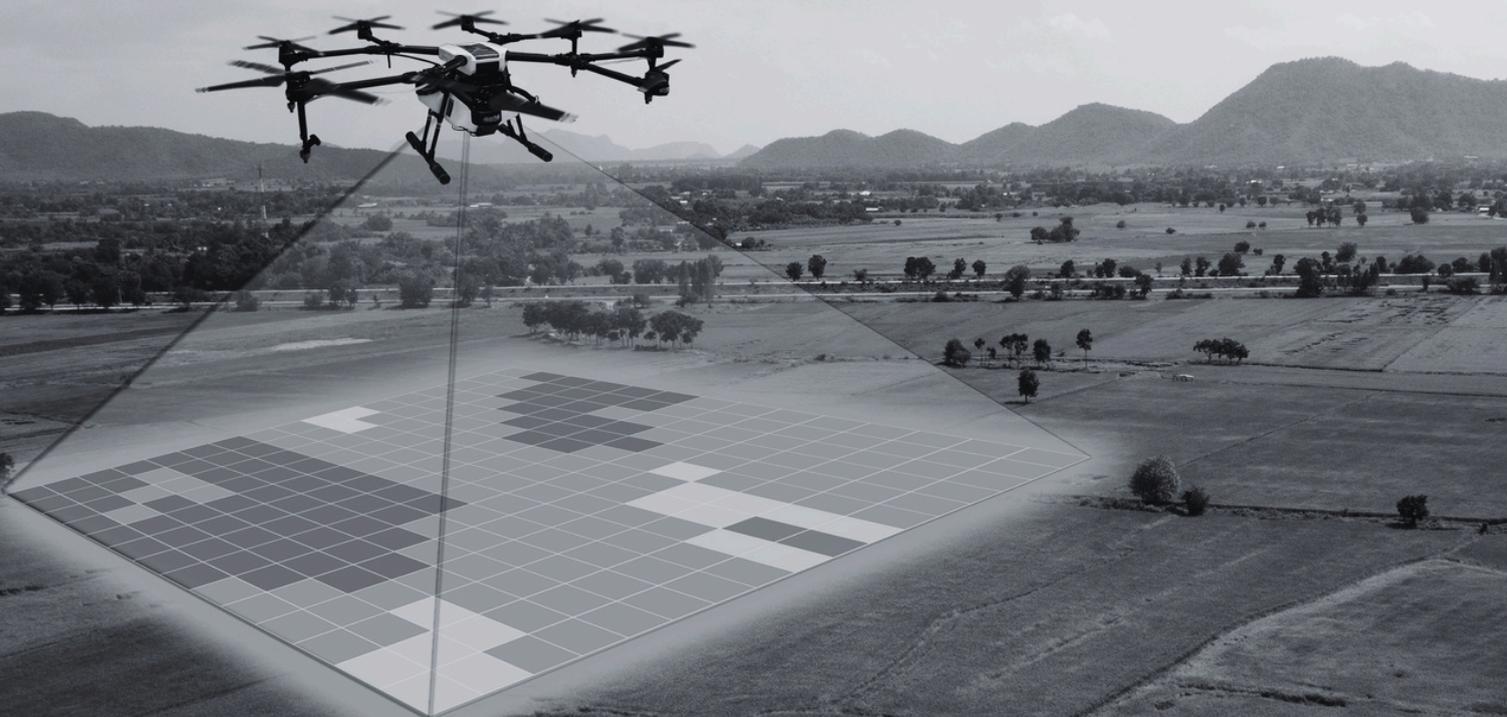
- Conduct aerial monitoring of large areas
- Allows real-time data transmission of your entire event space



THERMAL AND NIGHT VISION TECHNOLOGY

If you're planning an event that spans evening and nighttime hours, you may want to equip your team with thermal or night vision tools that allow them to:

- Conduct low-light and nighttime surveillance
- Enhance daytime threat detection with thermal imaging to identify concealed or obstructed threats





GUARDS & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Leveraging guards, whether armed or unarmed, provides your event and outdoor space with a layer of immediately available response support.

Guards and law enforcement officials patrol the premises and work best with layered technology solutions to extend their reach.

Provide guards with security planning documentation maps of your space and expected patrol areas. Consider adding advanced communication systems, including:

- **Reliable radios and headsets:** Equip your security team with high-quality communication devices to ensure clear and constant communication.
- **Central command center:** Establish a hub for information collection and decision-making in real-time.



PLAINCLOTHES SECURITY PERSONNEL

Incorporate plainclothes security officers to enhance observational capabilities:

- **Undercover Monitoring:** Deploy plainclothes officers to blend into the crowd and discreetly observe for suspicious behavior.
- **De-Escalation Tactics:** These personnel can also help defuse potential conflicts without drawing attention.

04

Gating access to your event can serve as a security measure and allow you to know who is in attendance through a registration or check-in process.

Access Controls & Credentials



TICKET SALES

Selling event tickets in advance or at entry can allow you to collect fees and information about your attendees, and move them through a verification gate that collects or scans tickets.

Tickets may also be simply used as a gating and information-gathering option if your event is free of charge.





LAYERED ACCESS

Use wristbands, badges, or other signifiers to differentiate access levels between different areas or to specific event options.



CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION

Require ID checks for attendees. If you're serving alcohol, this may also serve as validation for drinking age.

05

Emergency Response Integration

Coordinating with emergency response teams is critical in saving time and lives in the event of an emergency. Collaborate closely with your local emergency service providers, and consider:

- **Dedicated liaison officers:** Appoint officers to coordinate with police, fire, and medical services.
- **Integrated emergency plans:** Share your security and emergency response plans with local authorities to enable coordinated efforts if incidents occur.



ZEROEYES GUN DETECTION

Proactively detects firearms and relays coordinates and information to authorities and first responders—*typically in just 3–5 seconds.*



GPS COORDINATES FOR INCIDENT REPORTING

Equip security personnel with devices that provide precise location reporting.



FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATION

Use dedicated radio or digital platform channels for rapid communication between security and emergency teams.



AUTOMATED ACCESS CONTROL

Set up systems to automatically grant emergency vehicles access during a crisis.



REAL-TIME VIDEO SHARING

Enable the sharing of live video feeds with law enforcement to provide them with immediate situational awareness.

06

Cybersecurity
Measures

Ensuring strong cybersecurity measures at outdoor events is critical to maintaining operational security and protecting digital infrastructure.

**NETWORK SECURITY**

- Ensure secure, encrypted internet access for surveillance cameras and digital access control systems.
- Set up separate networks for public Wi-Fi and critical security operations to prevent interference or breaches.
- Use firewalls and intrusion detection systems to monitor network traffic for anomalies.

**COMMUNICATION CAPACITY**

- Confirm sufficient bandwidth to support real-time video surveillance, communication among security personnel, and attendee cell phone use during emergencies.
- Provide backup connectivity options such as mobile hotspots or satellite internet for redundancy.



DATA PROTECTION

- Encrypt all sensitive data transmitted during the event, including ticketing information and attendee records.
- Implement regular data backups to prevent data loss in case of cyber attacks.

07

Operational Guidelines

A well-defined security policy provides clarity and consistency for all event security measures.



SECURITY POLICIES

Develop formal policies covering physical security measures, digital protection strategies, and personnel roles. Ensure policies are clearly communicated and regularly updated.



COMPLIANCE

Ensure security protocols align with local laws and standards, including data privacy and public safety regulations.



INCIDENT REPORTING

Implement standardized reporting procedures for both physical security incidents and digital threats, ensuring all events are documented and reviewed.





Post-Event Evaluation

Thorough post-event reviews can identify areas for improvement and enhance future security planning.



DEBRIEF MEETINGS

Conduct structured meetings with security teams, event staff, and emergency responders to review event performance and address any issues encountered.



SECURITY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Evaluate the effectiveness of each security layer, including personnel, technology, and procedural safeguards, to identify successes and gaps.



ADJUSTMENTS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Document lessons learned and adjust security strategies to strengthen future event preparedness and response capabilities.

Incident Reports.

Examining Recent Outdoor
Gun Violence Incidents

Elizabeth City State University

Elizabeth City,
North Carolina

April 27, 2025

In the early hours of April 27, 2025, a shooting erupted at the center of Elizabeth City State University's campus in North Carolina, following the school's annual "Viking Fest" Yard Fest celebration.

The violence left one person dead—24-year-old Isaiah Caldwell of Albany, New York, who was visiting and not a student—and six others injured.

Four of the injured, including three ECSU students, suffered gunshot wounds, while two additional students were hurt in the ensuing chaos. None of the injuries is considered life-threatening.

The campus was placed on lockdown and a shelter-in-place order was issued, both of which were lifted later that day after authorities determined the campus was safe.

Officials have identified people of interest who are not believed to be students, but as of this writing, no arrests have been made.

Time of Incident: ~5 p.m.

Fatalities: 1 (age 24)

Injuries: 6 (including 3 students)

Juvenile Victim(s): Unknown

Juvenile Suspect(s): Unknown

Security Footage: Yes

Location Capable of Security Footage: Yes (university campus)

Suspect Outcome: Fled/escaped



→ *"I'm devastated. I don't feel safe, but it's something that happens when people have guns and people are hotheaded."*

Allison Perry, ECSU student

Fairground Park

St. Louis,
Missouri

April 13, 2025

Police reported that a mass shooting took place around 11:40 p.m. on April 13 during a large gathering at Fairground Park, where five individuals were shot.

Shortly after the incident, authorities received reports that three additional gunshot victims from the same event arrived at local hospitals by private vehicles. One of those victims, a 21-year-old man, succumbed to his injuries after reaching the hospital.

At this time, authorities have not released further details about the shootings and continue to work to identify the suspect.

→ *“It’s upsetting. Not only sad, it’s upsetting to see where you live and how this has been taken over and run over.”*

Charles Roberts, St. Louis resident and frequent Fairground Park visitor

Time of Incident: ~11:40 p.m.

Fatalities: 1 (age 21)

Injuries: 4 (age 23-35)

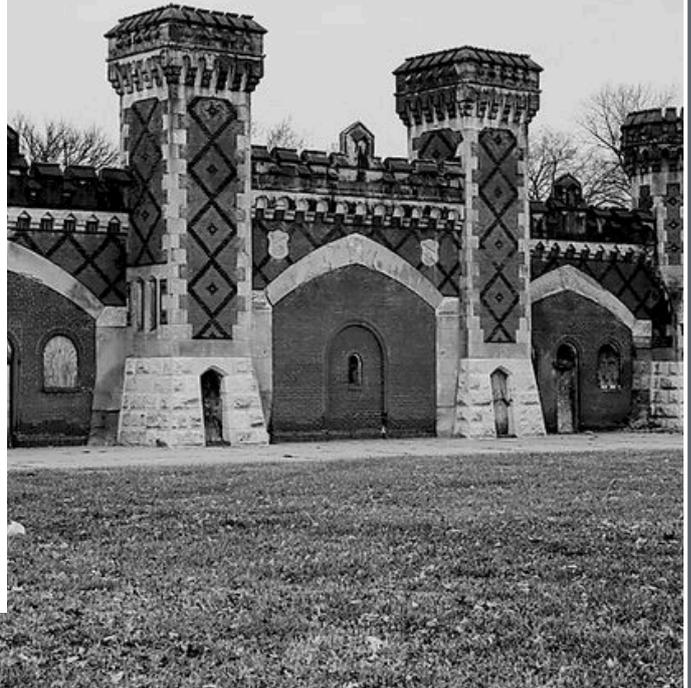
Juvenile Victim(s): No

Juvenile Suspect(s): Unknown

Security Footage: Yes

Location Capable of Security Footage: Yes (public park)

Suspect Outcome: Fled/escaped



French Quarter Festival

New Orleans,
Louisiana

April 13, 2025

On April 13, 2025, police responded to reports of gunfire in the French Quarter Fest area. Following their initial investigation, authorities confirmed that five individuals were injured in the shooting.

The following day, April 14, police announced the arrest of the suspect, Christopher Parker of New Orleans.

According to court records, Parker was allegedly involved in an altercation prior to the shooting and was later captured on surveillance footage firing into a crowd of people departing the festival.

Time of Incident: ~8:30 p.m.

Fatalities: 0

Injuries: 5

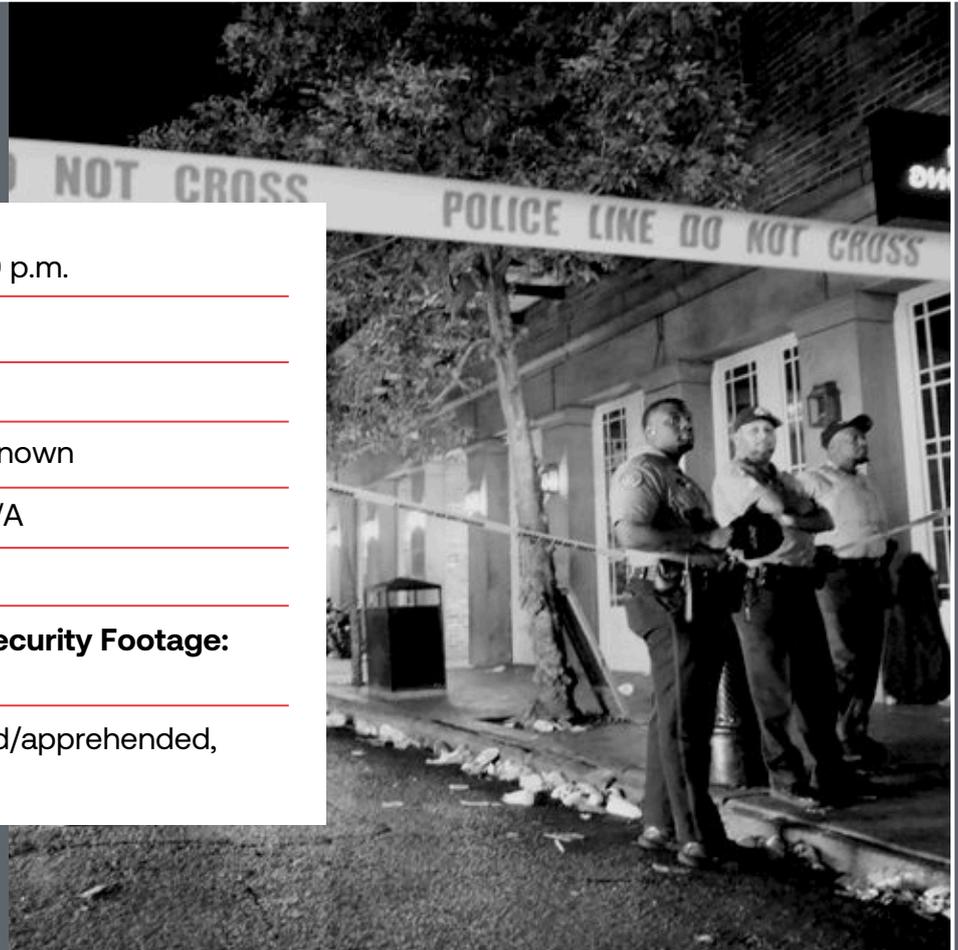
Juvenile Victim(s): Unknown

Juvenile Suspect(s): N/A

Security Footage: Yes

Location Capable of Security Footage:
Yes (public festival site)

Suspect Outcome: Fled/apprehended,
weapon discovered



Swift Gas Station

Crosby, Texas

April 12, 2025

At around 10 p.m. on April 12, 2025, police responded to a shooting at the Swift Gas Station, where over 100 people gathered in the parking lot for a fundraising event. Seven people, ages 16-25, were found with gunshot wounds—one later died.

Authorities have not determined what triggered the shooting but have classified the case as an active homicide investigation and are working to identify the suspect.



Time of Incident: ~10 p.m.

Fatalities: 1

Injuries: 6

Juvenile Victim(s): Yes (at least one)

Juvenile Suspect(s): Unknown

Security Footage: Yes

Location Capable of Security Footage:
Yes (gas station parking lot)

Suspect Outcome: Fled/escaped

Post-Incident Evaluation

In outdoor, open areas with people gathered together, layered security approaches are important to keep the space as safe as possible.

Metal detectors help screen individuals as they enter events, while police and security personnel patrol the area. But even with these measures, it's impossible for the human eye to catch everything—some things can still be missed.

Eyewitness testimony and screams of fear can lead to chaos and misinformation and confuse police.

Gun detection technology can give police direct knowledge of the suspect's location, description, and type of weapon, helping police minimize potential risk as quickly as possible—potentially **saving time and lives**.

Location:

Suspect in Silverpine
Center parking lot

Description:

Male wearing jeans and
dark brown hoodie

Type of Weapon:

Semi-automatic pistol



Securing Outdoor Spaces with ZeroEyes

ZeroEyes delivers proactive firearm detection for outdoor spaces—no matter the conditions.



Works with your existing security cameras—no new hardware required



Provides real-time alerts within seconds to security teams and local police, enabling rapid action to help stop guns at first sight, not first shot.



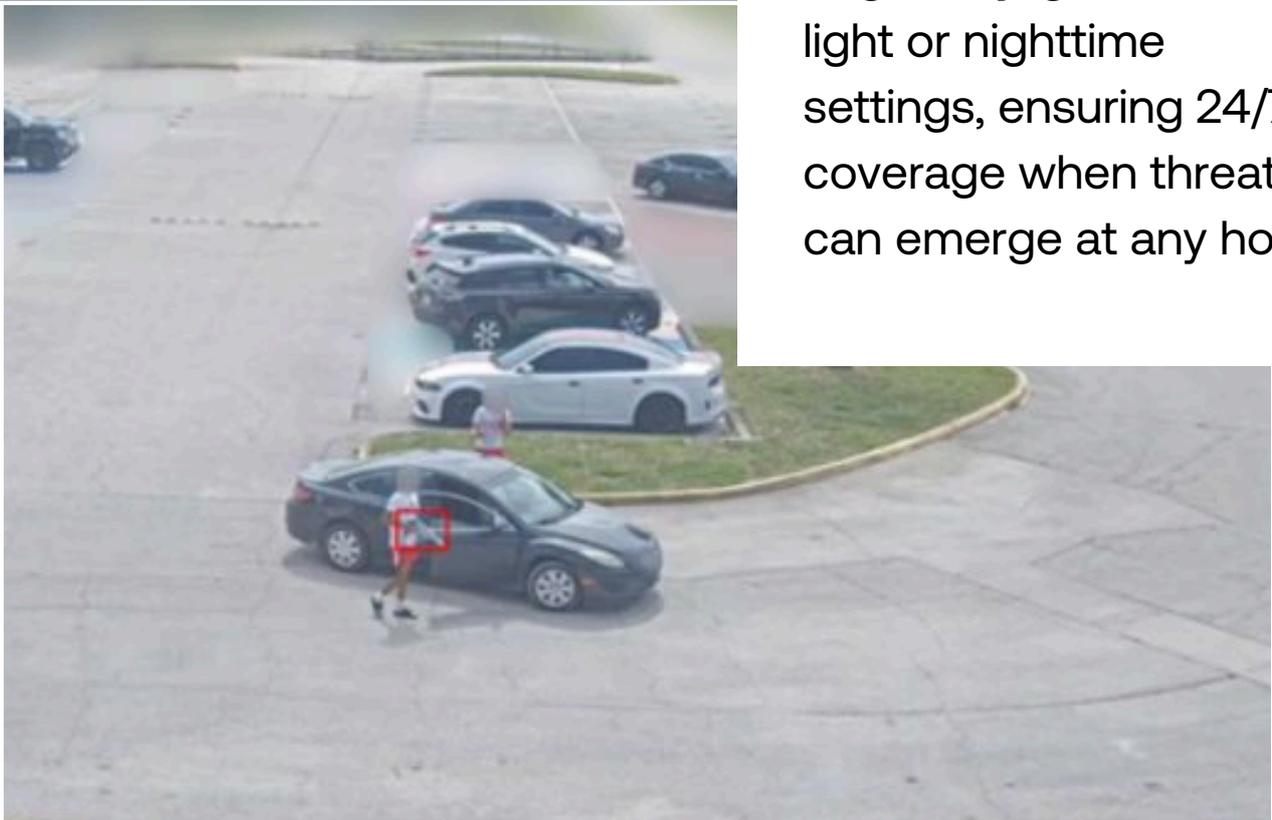
Extends your security perimeter to parking lots, parks, streets, and event venues, helping prevent incidents before they reach your building or crowd.

The following images, captured from real client deployments, show ZeroEyes' ability to identify visible firearms in a range of challenging scenarios...



Day or Night

ZeroEyes' advanced AI detects firearms in both bright daylight and low-light or nighttime settings, ensuring 24/7 coverage when threats can emerge at any hour.





Large crowds and open areas

Whether monitoring busy parking lots, public events, or crowded spaces, ZeroEyes can pinpoint firearms even when only a small portion of the weapon is visible—even among large groups.

All weather and lighting conditions

From rain and fog to high-contrast or low-contrast environments, ZeroEyes is trained to spot firearms in virtually any outdoor scenario.





Safeguard all environments

Advanced outdoor threat detection for every setting, protecting schools, businesses, and community spaces to help ensure safety anywhere.

Proactive Detection and Situational Awareness Can Save Lives

Founded in 2018 by a team of elite technologists and Navy SEAL veterans who lived through countless active shooter situations, ZeroEyes was created to protect people from facing similar circumstances.



ZeroEyes offers a proactive approach:

Human-verified visual gun detection and situational awareness solutions that work with your existing digital security cameras. By enhancing situational awareness, **ZeroEyes can help reduce response times and increase the potential to save lives.**

[Schedule a Live Demo](#)