Critical
An attack is expected imminently.

Severe
An attack is highly likely.

Substantial
An attack is a strong possibility.

Moderate
An attack is possible but not likely.

Low
An attack is not likely.

SECURITY SERVICE MI5

To report an imminent threat call **999** or ring the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**
Current UK threat level: SEVERE Read more about threat levels >>

CAREERS   WHO WE ARE ⌄   WHAT WE DO ⌄   HOW WE WORK ⌄   WHAT YOU CAN DO ⌄   NEWS

HOME / WHAT WE DO / TERRORISM / THREAT LEVELS

WHAT WE DO

Terrorism	×
International terrorism	+
Northern Ireland	+
Terrorist methods	
Terrorist targets	
Threat levels	
Espionage	+
Cyber	
Proliferation of WMD	

Threat Levels

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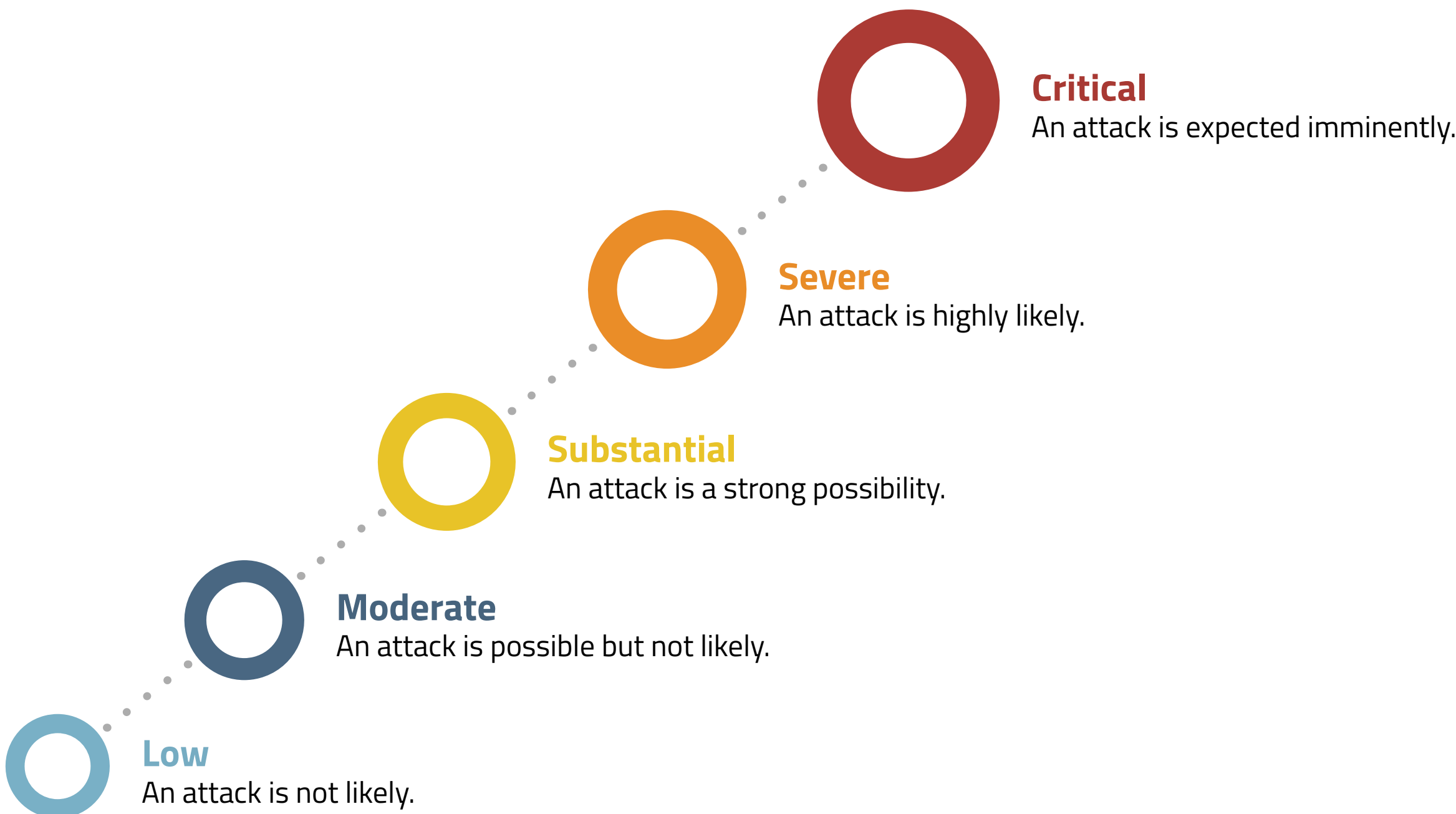
IMPORTANT

Threat levels in themselves do not require specific responses from the public. They are a tool for security practitioners working across different sectors of the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) and the police to use in determining what protective security response may be required.

Current Terrorism Threat levels

International terrorism in the UK:	Northern Ireland-related terrorism	
	In Northern Ireland:	In the UK:
Severe	Severe	Moderate

The international threat level refers to the threat of terrorism in the UK from other countries.

The threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism is set separately for Northern Ireland and Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland).

Threat Level Video

How should you respond?

Vigilance is vital regardless of the current national threat level. It is especially important given the current national threat. Sharing national threat levels with the general public keeps everyone informed. It explains the context for the various security measures (for example airport security or bag searches) which we may encounter in our daily lives.

If you have information about possible terrorist activity, call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline: **0800 789 321**.
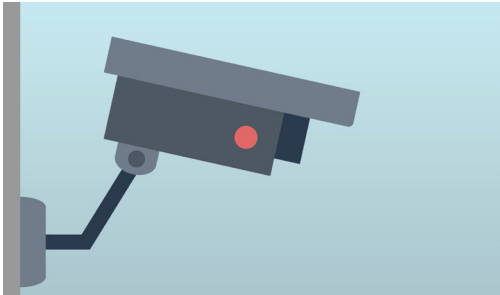
The Anti-Terrorist Hotline is for tip-offs and confidential information. For warnings about possible bombs or other urgent threats please call **999**.

UK Terror Threat Level

Critical

Severe

Substantial

Moderate

Low

Low
An attack is not likely.

Moderate
An attack is possible, but not likely.
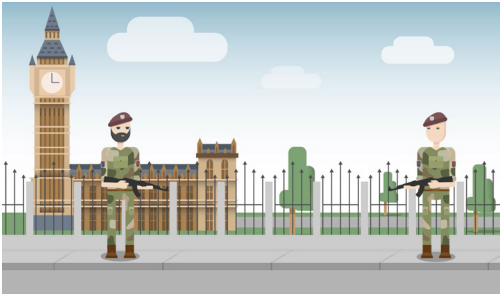
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SECURITYSERVICE
MI5

CAREERS   WHO WE ARE ⌄   WHAT WE DO ⌄   HOW WE WORK ⌄   WHAT YOU CAN DO ⌄   NEWS

WHAT YOU CAN DO

What to look for

Emergency planning

Business security advice

Travel advice

Useful links

The terrorist threat is serious and ongoing. Members of the public can help to prevent terrorism by being alert to possible suspicious activities. Terrorists have to live somewhere, and they need to plan and prepare for attacks. Members of the public may spot such activities, and if reported in time, a planned terrorist attack may be stopped before it happens.

Be aware of the following suspicious activities:

Buying/storing of unusual materials and equipment.

Undergoing suspicious training.

Behaving differently to how they did in the past.

Coming / going at strange times during the night.

False documents to hide their real identities.

Unusual financial transactions.

Report suspicious activity to the police:

If you are aware of something suspicious, trust your instincts and report it to the police. What might seem insignificant on its own could actually provide a vital link in a wider investigation. Call **999** for emergenies and **101** for non-emergencies.

Terrorists often use the Internet to promote extremism and terrorism. The Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006 made it illegal to have or share information that could be useful to terrorists, share information that urges people to commit or help with acts of terrorism, or glorify or praise terrorism. If you come across extremist or terrorist content you find online, you may wish to report it (see Report online terrorist material).

SECURITYSERVICE MI5

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WHAT WE DO

Terrorism   ✕

International terrorism   +

Northern Ireland   +

Terrorist methods

Terrorist targets

Threat levels

Espionage   +

Cyber

Proliferation of WMD

Terrorist Targets

Target Countries

Western countries and their interests overseas remain prime targets for international terrorist groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida. Al Qaida's founder Usama bin Laden, and his successor Ayman al Zawahri, identified a number of countries as allies of the US and so legitimate targets, including the UK, Australia, France, Japan, Norway, Poland and South Korea. Al Zawahiri cited as justification their actual or claimed involvement in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Chechnya or their support for Israel.

Example target countries:

| USA | Great Britain | France | Japan | Australia |

There are many reasons a terrorist group may consider a country to be a potential target for attacks. ISIL, for example, considers any countries which have supported military action against the group to be legitimate targets. As well as seeking to direct attacks against these countries, ISIL frequently uses its social media to inspire low sophistication attacks by extremist supporters worldwide on generic "Western" interests.

Target Locations

Terrorists often try to attack official personnel and property, such as diplomatic missions and military forces. Terrorists also target the police and military as they easily associated with the state, and their public-facing nature makes them fairly accessible for low sophistication attacks. Notable incidents include:

- Shootings at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa in October 2014
- Shootings at various army venues around Chattanooga, USA in July 2015
- The shooting of a policeman in Australia in October 2015.

Example target locations:

| Diplomatic missions | Military forces | Transport networks | Social venues | Tourist destinations |

However, terrorist cells also target less well-protected places frequented by Westerners. These could include locations where crowds gather such as social and retail venues, tourist sites and transport networks (rail, road and airports). The effectiveness of randomly targeting a public place comes from the likelihood of low security and the element of surprise. Depending on the location, public venues also offer the chance for maximum casualties. This was illustrated by the attacks in:

- Bali in October 2002
- Madrid in March 2004
- Egypt in July 2005
- Mumbai in 2008
- Nairobi in 2013
- Paris, Tunis and Sousse in 2015.

CRITICAL		An attack is expected imminently
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LOW		An attack is unlikely

No Specified Measures

LOW	MODERATE	SUBSTANTIAL	SEVERE	CRITICAL

Since 2006, the level has **never** been lower than substantial.

The police will patrol the streets and keep security checking in some public areas.

Armed police may be set as well.

The army may be added to ensure the safety of special sites.

CRITICAL
SEVERE
SUBSTANTIAL
MODERATE
LOW

LOW
An attack is unlikely

MODERATE
An attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL
An attack is a strong possiblity

SUBSTANTIAL

Security Check

SEVERE
An attack is highly likely

SEVERE

CRITICAL
An attack is expected imminently

CRITICAL

CRITICAL

Possible
Terrorist Activity

Anti-Terrorist Hotline
0800 789 321

What to do in the event of a
Terrorist Bombing Attack ?

EMERGENCY
ACTION
PLAN

1. INFORM

If you notice anything unusual like unattended items, suspicious behaviour and vehicles, immediately report it to the authorities by calling **999**

Call **999** to help inform the police with all the necessary details until they arrive on site if you notice any of the following events:

1A. Suspicious items
Unattended items

1B. Suspicious vehicles
Parked in an odd location

1C. Suspicious behaviour
Unusual actions

Keep an eye on the following:

- Someone trying to enter a **restricted area**
- Someone **nervous/repetitive movement**
- Someone **avoiding being seen**
- Someone wearing **unusual clothing**

2. ESCAPE

Evacuate the building as fast as possible by always looking for the nearest **EXIT**. If trapped or injured please follow the instructions below

2A. Run to the nearest EXIT
Evacuate the area
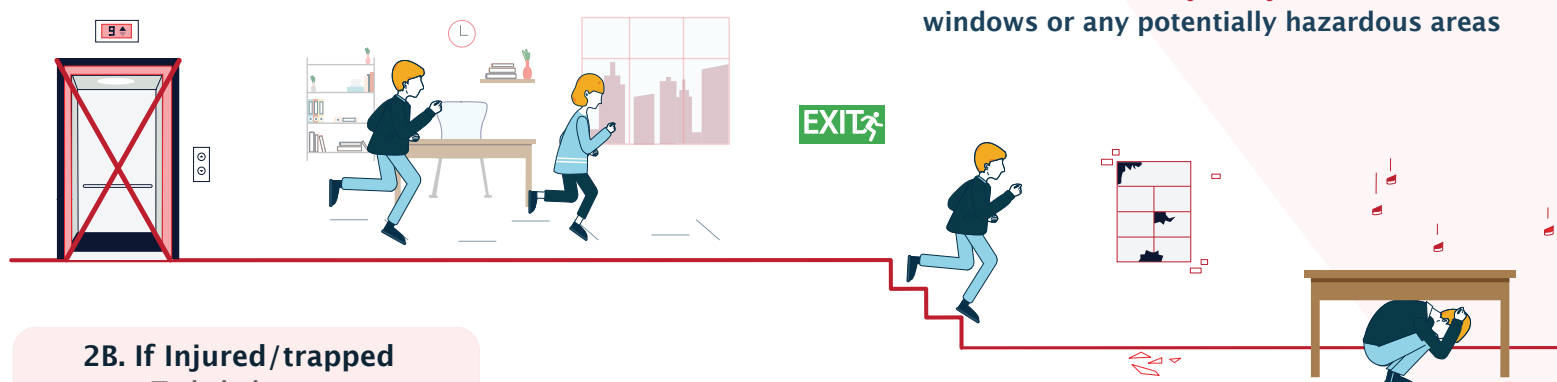
- **Do NOT** use the elevator but escape using the stairs
- Seek shelter and **Stay Away** from broken glass windows or any potentially hazardous areas

EXIT

2B. If Injured/trapped
To help locate you
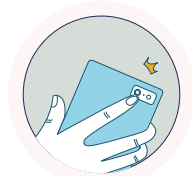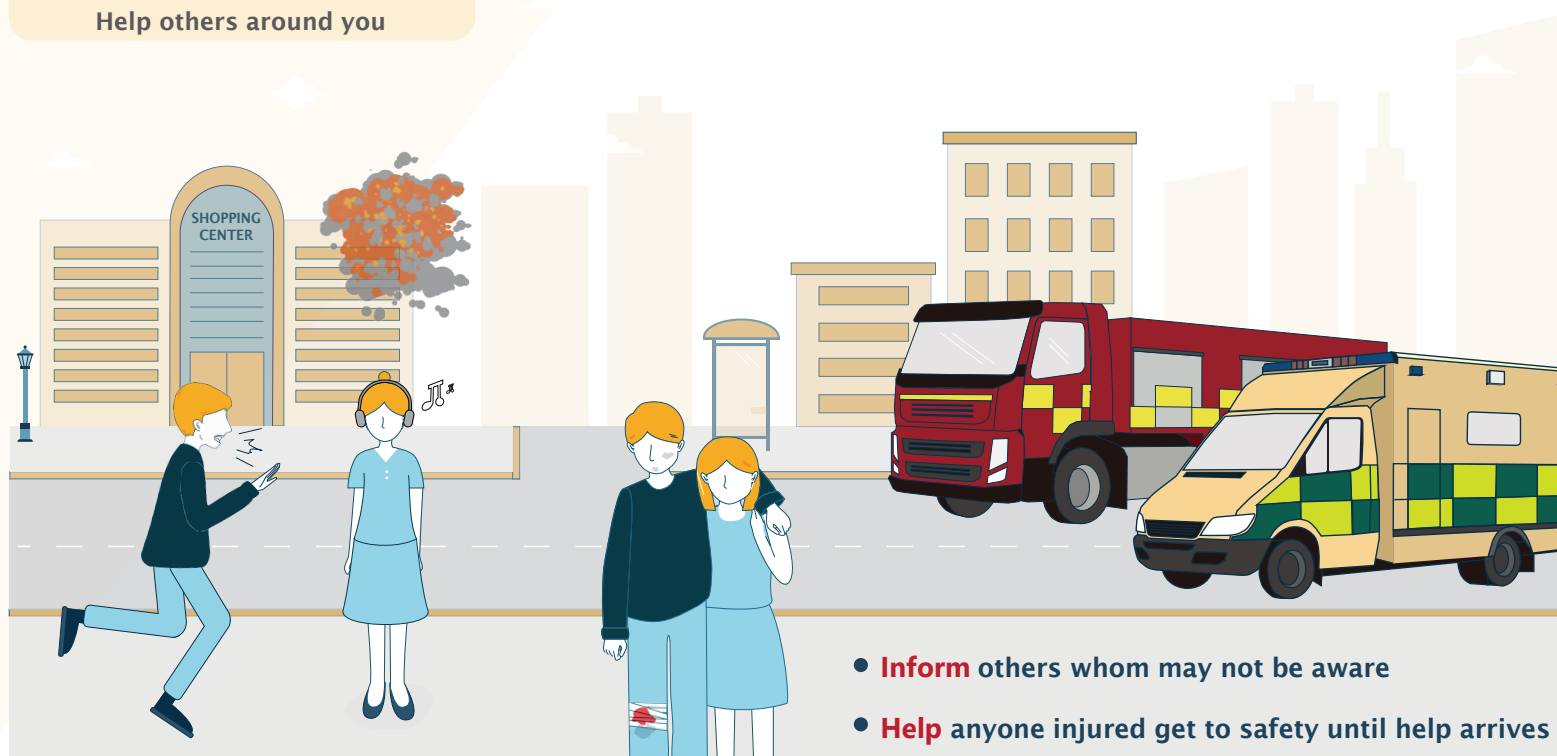
Use a flashlight

Make noise

Cover your nose & mouth

Shout as a last resort

3. HELP

When you have ensured your own safety **Help** others until all help arrives to the scene

3A. Help/Run to saftey
Help others around you

SHOPPING CENTER

- **Inform** others whom may not be aware
- **Help** anyone injured get to safety until help arrives

EMERGENCY HOTLINE
999

ANTI TERRORIST HOTLINE
0800 789 321

Emergency Action Plan in A Bombing Terrorist Attack?

Emergency Action Plan in A Bombing Terrorist Attack?

Over 40 years

Terrorist Bombing Attacks

DAILY EXPRESS
DAILY Mirror
THE TIMES
BLAST ON TRAIN ATTACK FIFTEEN INJURED
EXPLOSION AT CONCERT LEAVING 20 DEAD
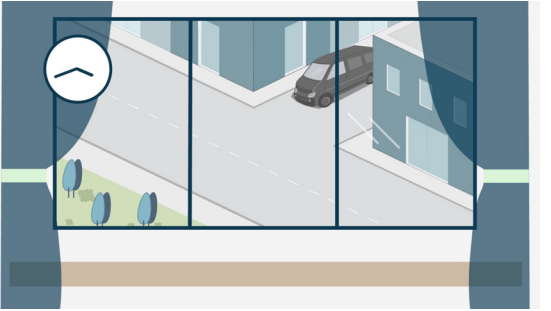
INFORM
ESCAPE
HELP

INFORM
BEHAVIOURS | ITEMS | VEHICLES

EXIT

AVOIDING BEING SEEN
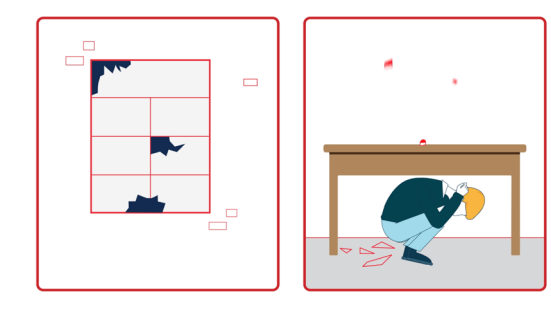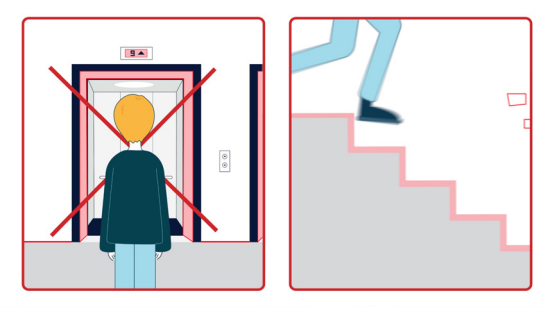NO ENTRY

NO ENTRY

BUSINESS
01:03

999

ESCAPE

HELP

Use Flashlight

SHOPPING CENTER

SHOPPING CENTER

Emergency Hotline
999