

# MEMORANDUM

To: His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
Cc: Jayne Millerick, Chief of Staff  
From: Robert L. Quinn, Commissioner, Department of Safety  
Date: November 28, 2023  
Re: State Facility Security Status and Recommendations

---

## Overview

Over the past several years the Department of Safety has implemented various safety, security, and training initiatives across state government. We acknowledge that there is room for improvement and security measures must evolve and adapt to current threats. The Department of Safety is committed to collaborating with state agencies and all branches of state government to ensure safety for state employees and the members of the public they serve. The Department recognizes that security needs will vary based on the location and scope of services provided. The recommendations provided in this document are significant and require time and resources to fully implement. By combining existing state resources with qualified and skilled contracted services and new technology, the State can efficiently identify and work to mitigate these risks across State Government.

## New Hampshire Hospital - Security Plan Recommendations

The State Office Complex Police Force (SOCPF) provides security and law enforcement coverage to the New Hampshire Hospital and the State Office Complex which includes 36 State office buildings and agencies including event, traffic, and crowd control for various non-profit and local organization events.

The following measures are completed, in-process, and recommended as part of the comprehensive security plan for NHH.

### Completed:

- Fencing was installed to block off the entire front entry area at NHH, directing vehicular and pedestrian traffic to the alternate entrance.
- Uniformed Trooper has been posted outside at the current alternate entrance.
- Concord Police have agreed to assist with staffing a stationary post on the exterior at the entrance.
- NH State Police Troopers assigned to supplement SOCPF Officer vacancies.
- SOCPF Officers moved to the Law Enforcement pay scale to be more competitive with other law enforcement roles and attract new candidates. Unarmed security officers are no longer utilized.

### In Progress:

- Contract with Private Security to provide 3-armed security guards at NHH 24/7. Assign armed security guards to screen visitors, patients, and staff entering the hospital and support SOCPF Officers throughout the facility.
- SOCPF officers and Troopers on OT will continue to handle all calls for service within NHH and the State Office Complex.
- Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with NHSP and HSEM has engaged Security Assessment to provide recommendations for the entire NHH facility (existing and new forensic hospital) with a focus on redesigning the NHH lobby. Changes to hospital policy will be implemented to align with changes to physical security.
- Change the NHH policy to allow SOCPF Officers to carry firearms throughout the hospital to mitigate any threats occurring within the NHH.

Recommended:

- Implement alternative visitation plan for the estimated 4-8 weeks required to replace ballistic glass in the lobby.
- Require all staff to enter through a separate security checkpoint.
- Provide full building access cards and floor plans to NHSP Response Teams (SWAT, Bomb Squad, etc), Concord Police, and Concord Fire.
- Upgrade and improve communication and notification systems within NHH to alert staff of critical events.
- Review and increase surveillance camera coverage in and around the facility.
- Install bollards at the main NHH entrance to prevent entry of vehicles.
- Upgrade existing weapon detection system to scan staff, visitors, and patients for guns, knives, and other prohibited items as they enter the facility.

**All State Buildings - Security Plan Recommendations**

The following measures are recommended as part of a revised Security Plan for all State Facilities.

- Create a NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) led working group of stakeholders including State Police, Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC), Department of Justice, NH University System, various Department Commissioners, and federal partners including the US Department of Homeland Security (CISA, FEMA).
- Complete a security assessment to document all current security measures and systems for all State of NH facilities across all branches of government and create a classification schedule based on risk factors.
- Contract with a security expert to assist with the identification and implementation of short and long-term strategic security measures at state facilities.
- Develop improvement plans to address access control, video surveillance, and emergency notification.
- Upgrade and improve communication and notification systems within all facilities to alert staff of critical events.
- Review and update of all state agency established emergency planning including active threat.
- Ensure interoperability between cellular, radio and mutual link platforms.
- Increase Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training opportunities for all state employees.
- Increase Incident management, incident command, and emergency operations center trainings, workshops, tabletops, and full-scale exercises surrounding active threat response practices.
- Review all current security Supplemental Job Descriptions (SJD) to be clear in the roles and responsibilities or armed versus unarmed.