

Best Practice: Fence Line Extends Into Water



Category:	Access Control
Location:	Port of Victoria, Seychelles
Date Observed:	November 13, 2006
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Description: The fence line continues down the bank of the channel into the water to prevent trespassers from circumventing the fence to access the port.

Discussion: At a waterfront facility, common challenges to the effectiveness of walls and fences are the land/water interface and how to prevent intruders from walking around walls and fences at the waterline. This is especially problematic with tidal water, which floods and recedes, often leaving a gap at the end of the fence during low tide. At the Port of Victoria, this issue was addressed by continuing the construction of the security fence from the land side down into the channel. At high and low tide, the fence creates an effective barrier against intruders.

Potential Down-side: A fence of this type is susceptible to flood damage and/or collecting trash from flooding and receding tides. The fence can still be circumvented by an intruder willing to go farther into the water to go over or around the fence. Constructing a fence in a waterway can be an expensive and time consuming endeavor, especially if concrete footings are required.

Conclusion: For certain applications, especially those involving relatively still water, this can be an effective approach. This type of fence would not long survive fast moving (river or fast current) water. Depending on the type of construction and engineering required, this fence can be a very expensive.

Cost: Varies considerably, depending on size, geography and geology of waterfront, and velocity of water flow.