

Best Practice: Scale Diorama of Port Area



Category: Security Infrastructure

Location First

Observed: Port of Neva Sheva,
Mumbai, India

Date First

Observed: May, 2005

Description: The port built and maintains a scale diorama of their port in the port headquarters. The diorama can be used to plan emergency preparedness and response, and for effective tabletop security exercises.

Discussion: A scale diorama of a port and access roads is a very effective tool for security planning, response, training, and exercises. Port directors and security managers can devise more realistic security threat and response scenarios during training and exercises. During an actual security event, incident commanders can coordinate the response of security officers, port employees, law enforcement, and military personnel to various locations on the port. A port diorama can provide additional benefits to a port, including safety planning, vessel and vehicle routing, and improving operational efficiency.

Potential Down-side: Port directors and security managers should not become overly reliant on table-top exercises as they do not address all of the issues that will occur during an actual security incident. It is important to hold both table-top and facility-wide practical security exercises to be best prepared for an actual security incident. Dioramas need to be updated to reflect actual port conditions as port facilities are added or removed.

Conclusion: A diorama of a port facility can provide the port with several benefits, including effective security planning, training, and incident response. Most medium and large ports would derive a benefit from constructing a port diorama reflecting all entrances, exits, fences, gates, and waterfront facilities.

Cost: Varies, depending on the size of the port, the size and amount of detail of the diorama; as well as if it is professionally built or constructed in-house. Prices will range between \$250 - \$10,000 USD to construct.