

What Perimeter Barriers are Right For You: First Questions to Ask

Do you want to delineate your property – keep trespassers out, or restrict access to specific areas. Then the following questions will help you take the first step in determining what type of perimeter barriers you need. Are you trying to control:

- Nothing.
- Casual unauthorized pedestrians.
- Casual unauthorized vehicles.
- Determined unauthorized pedestrians.
- Determined unauthorized vehicles.

If you are trying to control *something* (i.e. did not select ‘nothing’ from the above list), then the next step is to identify what tactics may be used by the population you are trying to control. Some of these tactics may be:

- Unintentional trespass (did not understand that they were not supposed to enter).
- Covert entry.
- Climbing.
- Small hand tools.
- Power tools and torches.
- Small shaped charges, etc.
- Larger scale explosives.
- Vehicle ramming.

Once you have identified the tactics, the next question would be how do you want your barriers to respond to those tactics. Some of the response may be:

- Number of minutes of delay.
- Distance an aggressor vehicle can penetrate past the barrier.
- Post event residual effectiveness of barrier
 - Vehicle barrier can still be effective against ramming after first attack.
 - No line of sight from outside the perimeter to the interior of the protected facility.
 - Barrier still provides ballistic or forced entry resistance.

What else do the barriers have to do:

- Let vehicles in and out.
- Let pedestrians in and out.
- Meet aesthetic requirements.
- Allow visual surveillance of the unprotected side from the interior of the facility.
- Allow special fire department access.
- Other?