



FEMA

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PARTNERS IN SHAPING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



## Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Fact Sheet: Physical Security Enhancements

Environmental resources, cultural institutions, and historic assets define communities and contribute to their well-being and unique character. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plays a critical role in helping communities incorporate environmental stewardship and historic preservation into emergency management decisions. As disasters continue to challenge our nation and communities grapple with issues of preparedness and sustainability, FEMA offers expertise to ensure both legal compliance and informed local, State, Tribal, and national planning.

### Physical Security Enhancements and EHP Review

Physical security enhancements can have long-term impacts on environmental and historic resources. These enhancements—including but not limited to closed circuit television cameras, access control devices, motion detection sensors, alarms, security doors, and lighting—are designed to provide visual surveillance of and access control to vulnerable buildings and exterior locations. Although they are generally small in scale, their installation may have negative impacts on historic buildings or archaeological resources. Of particular concern are the visual changes that may occur if the project takes place in, on, or adjacent to a historic building or district that is listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. Trenching or digging to provide electrical connections may also affect archaeological resources. Before FEMA grant funding can be secured for these projects, they must be reviewed by FEMA to ensure that the action meets Federal, State, and local EHP requirements.

### Considering EHP Impacts

FEMA has experts available who are experienced in examining the potential environmental impacts of physical security enhancements and providing guidance to address them. This helps applicants anticipate and address potential EHP issues so they are better positioned to secure FEMA grant funding critical for project completion. FEMA will take into consideration the sensitivity of certain information related to security measures and will limit detail provided in public environmental documents as appropriate. Although historic impacts are the most common issue for this activity, FEMA must also consider other potential resource issues, such as effects on floodplains, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, soils, water, and air quality.

### Completing EHP Review

Physical security enhancement projects may be eligible for funding through a variety of FEMA preparedness grant programs. When applying for a FEMA grant, it is important to provide complete and accurate information to facilitate EHP review and avoid unnecessary delays. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate their plans with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for work on buildings that are listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. See the checklist on the following page for more guidance on documentation required for EHP review of a security enhancements project.

#### EHP Considerations for Physical Security Enhancements

When planning the installation of physical security enhancements, FEMA advises communities to:

- Minimize the visual impacts of equipment in, on, or adjacent to historic properties or districts.
- Design projects to avoid or minimize physical changes or damage to historic properties, paying special attention to methods for attaching equipment to buildings or structures and installation of electrical connections.
- Limit or avoid ground disturbance.
- Choose new devices that are similar to the existing in terms of size, color, and model when replacing equipment.

## Physical Security Enhancements: Grant Application EHP Checklist

The checklist below describes project information that FEMA requires in order to complete EHP review of a physical security enhancements project.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Location</b>	State the location of the project, including both the site address and latitude/longitude in decimal degrees (e.g., 38.5342° N, -77.0212° W).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Description of Project Scope of Work</b>	Provide a detailed description of the project scope of work including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific proposed action(s)</li> <li>• Exact location of both interior and exterior installation</li> <li>• Description of how the project will be implemented, discussing any proposed ground disturbance and detailing its extent (depth, length, and width), when applicable</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Age of Existing Buildings</b>	Provide the original date of construction for any buildings or structures located on the proposed project site. For exterior installations, provide any available information about the age of buildings that are within view of the project site.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Photographs</b>	Provide labeled aerial imagery and ground-level color photographs that indicate where equipment will be installed and ground disturbances will occur. Clearly label photos to indicate the location and orientation of the security equipment relative to the building and the project site. For all installations on, in, or adjacent to buildings over 50 years of age, provide photos of all exterior sides of the building or structure.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agency Coordination</b>	Coordinate with applicable resource agencies prior to submitting your application to greatly reduce EHP review time. Note any communications with Federal, State, and local resource agencies, such as the SHPO, and provide copies of correspondence.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Additional Information</b>	Include copies of other relevant information, such as historic property surveys, archaeological surveys, or environmental assessments.

### Timeframes for EHP Review

Timeframes for EHP review vary depending on a specific project’s potential to impact environmental, historic, and archaeological resources, and the complexity of the proposed effort. For projects that do not affect historic properties or do not require consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the review process generally takes 30 days after FEMA has received a complete project application. Additional consultation required to resolve impacts identified under Section 7 of the ESA or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will extend the review period a minimum of 60 to 90 days as it involves coordination with other agencies and stakeholders.

### EHP Best Practice: Security Enhancements to a Historic Train Station

Providing a concise and accurate project description is critical to timely EHP review for security enhancements projects. A project description was submitted for a significant historic railroad station in a major metropolitan area (listed in the National Register of Historic Places and originally constructed in 1908) that proposed to use Transit Security Grant Program funds to install physical security enhancements in the historic station. The project involved the installation of panoramic closed circuit television cameras—three in the main hall and six in the rail yard—to provide station security with increased visibility throughout the facility. In addition, the project proposed to add bollards in front of the station to prevent intrusions by unauthorized vehicles. Realizing the potential sensitivity of the historic resource, the applicant submitted detailed photographs and aerial imagery showing the exact location of each proposed device, along with specifications and graphic examples of the components themselves. The level of detail provided allowed for rapid analysis and review of the impact of the security enhancements on the historic building.

**Additional Resources:** For more information on EHP review and FEMA grant assistance, contact your State Emergency Management Agency or Tribal office or visit <http://www.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program>.