



**TEXAS RE**

# **CIP Physical Security Walkthroughs**

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# Understanding CIP Physical Security Walkthroughs

Physical security walkthroughs involve reviewing the physical security of BES Cyber Systems (BCS) to assess the effectiveness of physical security plans, visitor control programs, Physical Access Control Systems (PACS), and to ensure compliance with NERC CIP standards

These walkthroughs seek to identify any vulnerabilities or deficiencies and ensure they are addressed to mitigate the risk of unauthorized access or other security threats to critical infrastructure



# Some Key Components of a CIP Physical Security Walkthrough



Access  
Controls

Perimeter  
Security

Intrusion  
Detection

Surveillance

Security  
Personnel

Access Logs



# CIP Standards Used During Walkthroughs

## CIP-003-8 (Low Impact BCS)

Section 2, Physical Security Controls – at the asset or the locations of the low impact BES Cyber Systems within the asset, and the Cyber Assets that provide electronic access controls



# CIP Standards Used During Walkthroughs

## CIP-006-6 (High and Medium Impact BCS with External Routable Connectivity)

**Part 1.2** Utilize at least one physical access control to allow only individuals who have authorized unescorted physical access into the Physical Security Perimeter (PSP)

**Part 1.3** Utilize at least two or more different physical access controls

**Part 1.4** Monitor for unauthorized access into a PSP

**Part 1.5** Issue an alarm or alert in response to detected unauthorized access through a physical access point to the personnel identified in the BES Cyber Security Incident response plan within 15 minutes of detection

**Part 1.6** Monitor each Physical Access Control System (PACS) for unauthorized physical access

**Part 1.7** Issue an alarm or alert of detected unauthorized physical access to a PACS to personnel identified in the BES Cyber Security Incident response plan within 15 minutes of detection

**Part 1.8** Log entry of everyone with authorized unescorted physical access into each PSP

**Part 1.9** Retain physical access logs for at least 90 days

**Part 1.10** Restrict physical access to cabling and nonprogrammable communication components outside of the PSP, or encrypt/monitor the status of the link and issue alarm/alert within 15 minutes of detection, or equal logical protection

**Part 2.2** Require manual or automated visitor logging

**Part 2.3** Retain visitor logs for at least 90 days



# CIP Standards Used During Walkthroughs

## CIP-007-6

- High Impact BCS and Medium Impact BCS at Control Centers and associated PCA and nonprogrammable communication components located inside both physical and electronic security perimeters
- Part 1.2 Protect against the use of unnecessary physical input/output ports used for network connectivity, console commands, or removable media

## Additional Information

- CIP-014-3 – Physical Security – Reviewing evidence (applicability lists, models, and technical analyses) of the risk assessments
- Electronic Access Points identified and associated PSPs
- Electronic Access Controls & Monitoring Systems (EACMS)
- Physical Access Control Systems
- Cyber Assets identified – sampled
- TOP-001-6 R20 – Verify that there is redundant and diversely routed infrastructure (switches, routers, servers, power supplies, network cabling, etc.) at the primary Control Center, including its associated data center



# CIP Physical Walkthroughs during Your Engagement

Inspect perimeter fencing, gates, and barriers to ensure they are adequate to deter unauthorized access

Check surveillance systems, including cameras and sensors, to verify their functionality and coverage

Test access control measures, such as card readers, alarms/alerts, and security personnel to ensure only authorized individuals can enter secure areas

Review access logs, and visitor logs to ensure continuous escorted access of visitors within the PSP

Review environmental controls for Control Centers and associated datacenters, redundancy and diverse routing - avoiding single points of failure



The background of the slide features a blurred image of the Texas state flag on the left and a close-up of a wind turbine's hub and blades on the right. The blades are white with red tips. A dark blue rounded rectangle with a thin light blue border is centered over the image.

# Questions?



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Ensuring electric reliability for Texans