



# GUIDE FOR SECURITY LIGHTING FOR PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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**GUIDE FOR  
SECURITY LIGHTING FOR PEOPLE, PROPERTY,  
AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Publication of this document  
has been approved by IES.  
Suggestions for revisions  
should be directed to IES.

**Prepared by  
IES Security Lighting Committee**



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## Preface

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The many professionals in the Illuminating Engineering Society and the Security Lighting Committee are proud to provide this publication in support of security goals and objectives. The committee, comprising lighting designers and providers, law enforcement managers and advisors, crime prevention specialists, criminalists, and risk managers, has focused on producing guidelines that are easy to understand and apply. In addition to lighting guidance, the authors included discussions of security issues and techniques to aid readers in considering and applying solutions.

## History

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The following constitutes a brief history of the relationship between safety, security, and lighting.

- During World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need for industry to increase exterior lighting at key production facilities, docks, assembly yards, high security facilities, and railway yards. These improvements had two purposes: to aid in production and to deter sabotage. Although exterior protective lighting was widely increased, no standard was set.
- A project to develop a standard on outdoor protective lighting for industrial properties was initiated at the beginning of World War II. This project was a request of the War Department and Military Intelligence, with the assistance of the Insurance Committee for the Protection of American Industrial Plants and the American Standards Association (ASA). The primary purpose of these efforts was to prevent theft and sabotage. It was soon realized that light discipline and improved plant and installation illumination were essential to the war effort. As a result, coastal facilities and buildings were darker, stray light was strictly controlled, and industrial plants and military installations received improved perimeter illumination. North America was learning the importance of good security lighting and light discipline.
- In 1942, the ASA War Standards Procedure was utilized, and a War Standards Committee prepared and published American Standard A85-1942, *Protective Lighting for Industrial Properties*. This eventually became an ANSI Standard.
- In 1948, the ASA Safety Code Correlating Committee terminated War Standards and instituted a revised standard for peacetime use. The Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) was designated Administrative Sponsor for this effort. The IES Protective Lighting Committee developed the first draft of this revision, which the Sectional Committee used as a basis for the American National Standard Practice.
- In 1977, the IES Protective Lighting Committee published *IES RP-10, American National Standard Practice for Protective Lighting*. This standard was primarily a guide to outdoor protective lighting for those responsible for industrial plant protection.
- In 1994, the Protective Lighting Committee was restructured as the Security Lighting Committee. This committee was charged with developing criteria for lighting, enhancing the security of people and property, recommending integration and interaction of lighting as part of a total security system, and writing publications to support public efforts toward a more secure society.
- During 1997 and 1998, the Security Lighting Committee developed material that was the basis for Chapter 29 of *The IESNA Lighting Handbook*, 9th edition.
- In 2002, members of the Security Lighting Committee began final work on an update of and replacement for IES RP-10, *Security Lighting*. The resulting publication, *IES G-1-03, Guidelines for Security Lighting for People, Property, and Public Spaces*, was approved by the IES Board of Directors on March 1, 2003, as a Transaction of the Illuminating Engineering Society.
- In January 2017, the U.S. Interagency Security Committee under Department of Homeland Security listed as part of their Security Specialist competencies inclusion of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as one of the elements in conducting a security survey. This includes how CPTED can be implemented in the