

## Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

In the world of physical security there is nothing quite like fences and gates. It's amazing with all of our advances in technology how a device that is tens of thousands of years old still manages to come out on top when it comes to protection.

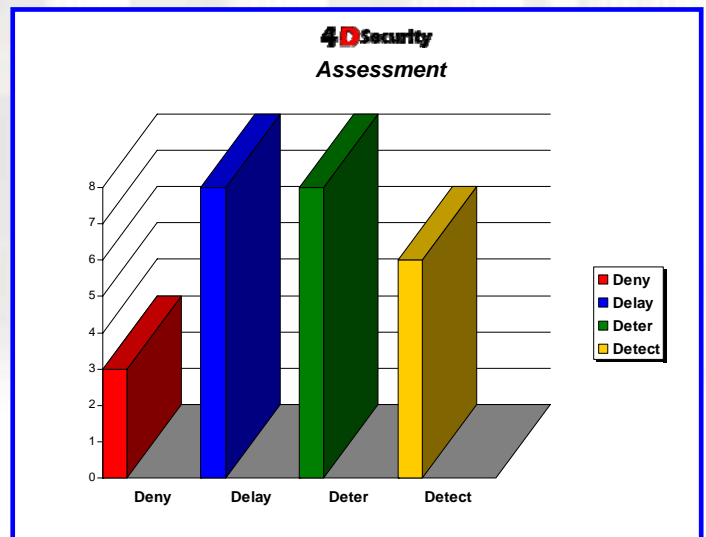
All components of a comprehensive physical security program are designed to accomplish one of four goals:

1. **Deny** access
2. **Delay** access
3. **Deter** access
4. **Detect** access

It is the fence and gate alone that is capable of accomplishing all four. What's probably more important is understanding how and when to include fencing and gates as a part of your overall program.

As always you must first consider what you are trying to protect. It will always be some type of asset. There are three basic types of assets:

1. Human Assets (People)
2. Physical Assets (Property)
3. Intellectual Assets (Information)



Once you have clearly identified the asset you are trying to protect you can decide does a fence and gate make sense. Here are a couple of real examples:

- a.) You are having vehicle theft issues: It is a proven fact that the most successful way to eliminate vehicle thefts is putting gates at your vehicle ingress and egress points. It is 99.9% effective in eliminating car theft. Conversely if you were having vehicle burglary issues gates are not effective.
- b.) You are having construction at your property. Consider the use of temporary fencing to protect the construction equipment and supplies. By doing so, you increase the odds that your renovations will be completed on time and on budget.
- c.) You are having improper pass thru on your property. Consider using a fence to channel pedestrian traffic around the area you are trying to protect.

Fences and gates remain a staple of any strong physical security program, but only when deployed properly to accomplish very specific tasks. Be sure to understand exactly that goal before installing any fencing. The type and aesthetics of fencing are equally important in sending the message you want your property to convey. Often you hear owners and property managers voice concerns that fencing sends the wrong message to the general public. With the wide variety of decorator fencing, it is possible to create an environment that is secure, but still sends the message of friendly and open.

As always, with any security related matter feel free to contact Linda Keefe - 858.952.9943/lkeefe@gmiweb.com - or your Branch Manager and remember all consultations are free for GMI clients.