OUT OF THE TOOLBOX

Scouting and Reconnaissance

Mapping is important if you want to understand the opportunities for action, but mapping alone isn't enough. There is also tactical reconnaissance, which is a fancy way to say, go scouting! Buildings and streets will tell you what you need to know if you take the time to look. Google Maps is pretty awesome, but nothing can replace your own two eyes, live, in real time.

Before you set out, look for online maps with floor plans or tenant lists in target buildings, and draw a map if you need to of your action area. Visit the site several times, especially during the time of day you expect to take action. Once you have observed and understand a space, action ideas often emerge. Taking photos can be useful when your memory fails!

Things to Look for When Scouting Buildings

Security: desks, cameras, personnel

Entrances, exits, loading areas, fire escapes

Sidewalk space, landscaping, trees, benches

Windows: Think about the visibility in and out

Places for possible banner drops

Parking and parking garages

Retail outlets/eateries

Janitor/staff schedule

Bathrooms

Wi-Fi access

Things to Look for When Mapping a City

Highways (entrance and exit ramps), roads, and streets, noting lanes and traffic flow

Bridges for banner drops

One-way streets: great to go against the flow and harder for police to follow

Police stations, jails, and courthouses where your people will be brought

Meeting spaces and community centers for trainings and support

Parks to assemble and create safe space; hearts of the city where people can gather

Construction sites that will have materials

Parking garages: to park, to film from, or for banner drops

Tourist sites and cultural centers like museums, theaters, operas

Public transportation for getting to and from actions

Hospitals in case people are hurt

Public buildings, bus stations, and libraries: places to escape to if the police attack