



**BJA**  
Bureau of  
Justice Assistance

# CAT

Communities Against Terrorism

**FBI**  
Federal Bureau  
of Investigation



**POTENTIAL INDICATORS**  
of Terrorist Activities related to

## Electronic Stores

*What should I consider suspicious?*

*What should I do?*

### SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

- Significantly alters appearance from visit to visit (shaving beard, changing hair color, style of dress, etc).
- Missing hand/fingers, chemical burns, strange odors or bright colored stains on clothing.
- Fills a "shopping list" of components lacking knowledge about specifications and uses.
- Purchases quantities of prepaid or disposable cell phones.
- Insists prepaid phones not be activated or programmed upon purchase.
- Pays cash for large purchases; uses credit card(s) in different name(s), uses suspicious identification.
- Travels illogical distance to purchase items or asks where similar stores are located.

### SUSPICIOUS PURCHASING ACTIVITY: UNUSUAL INTERESTS

- Radio frequencies (used/not used) by law enforcement.
- Voice or data encryption, VOIP, satellite phones, voice privacy.
- Use of anonymizers, portals, or other means to shield IP address.
- Swapping SIM cards in cell phones or how phone location can be tracked.
- Rewiring cell phone's ringer or backlight.
- Products/components related to military-style equipment.
- Unusual comments regarding radical theology, vague/cryptic warnings, or anti-U.S. sentiments that appear to be out-of-place and provocative.

### SUSPICIOUS PURCHASING ACTIVITY: UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Electronic timer or timing devices | • Digital Voice Changers   |
| • Phone or "bug" detection devices   | • Wire and soldering tools |
| • 2-way radios                       | • Infrared Devices         |
| • Batteries                          | • Night Vision             |
| • Global Positioning                 | • Police scanners          |
| • Switches                           | • Flashlight Bulbs         |

### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

- Require valid ID from all new customers.
- Keep records of purchases.
- Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.

### DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The partnership between the community and law enforcement is *essential* to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

To report suspicious activity, please call  
1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto  
[HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).  
In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE A PERSON'S SPEECH, ACTIONS, BELIEFS, APPEARANCE, OR WAY OF LIFE IS **DIFFERENT**; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PERSON IS **SUSPICIOUS**.



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Some of the indicators listed above are, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, the totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.