



BJA
Bureau of
Justice Assistance

CAT

Communities Against Terrorism

FBI
Federal Bureau
of Investigation



**POTENTIAL
INDICATORS**
of Terrorist Activities related to

Home Improvement and Large Retail Stores

What should I consider suspicious?

What should I do?

SHOPLIFTING OR PURCHASING

- Large quantity of ammunition or model aircraft fuel.
- Firearms and ammunition out of season.
- Large quantity of watches, electronic timers, or kitchen timers.
- A combination of unusual items (e.g., sponges, candles, matches, bolt cutters).
- Unusual quantity of compressed fuels (e.g., propane).
- Night-vision equipment and camouflage apparel.
- Unusually large quantity of fertilizer type 34-0-0 or 32-2-0.
- Pipe (particularly in short lengths), end caps, and pipe nipples in the same transaction, particularly when vague about their use.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Making suspicious inquiries about equipment (tank size, spray range).
- Using a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport combustible chemicals, fertilizers containing ammonium nitrate (particularly 34-0-0), or other materials.
- Asking about a particular fertilizer without a stated purpose or displaying no interest in alternative fertilizers.
- Refusing to complete appropriate paperwork for firearms purchases.
- Using cash for large transactions.
- Using a credit card in someone else's name.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

- 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.