



BJA
Bureau of
Justice Assistance

CAT

Communities Against Terrorism

FBI
Federal Bureau
of Investigation



POTENTIAL INDICATORS
of Terrorist Activities related to

Rail Infrastructure

Note: There may be a legitimate reason why any of the indicators described below are observed. We are asking you as experts to determine when that is not the case.

What should I consider suspicious?

What should I do?

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

- Individuals observed filming or photographing passing trains, locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars, rail yard operations, tracks, bridges, tunnels, commuter rail trains, subway trains, transit trains, stations and platforms.
- Individuals who appear to be noting arrival and departure times or stops on maps of passenger, transit and subway trains.
- Individuals who approach rail employees and ask questions about rail operations, rail equipment, locomotive fueling stations, and locomotive fuel capacity or security issues.
- Individuals sitting in vehicles near passenger / mass transit rail operations that do not appear to pickup or drop off passengers and do not board a train.
- Individuals who appear to be noting the size and capacity of passenger cars and or who ask train crew probing questions about peak travel times and capacity levels.
- Individuals observed near rail switches, switch stands, signal bungalows and other locations along the railroad tracks and right of way.
- Individuals observed watching switch operations by train crews at power plants, chemical industries, or bulk transfer facilities that ship and receive commodities by rail.
- Individuals who appear to be out of place while on rail property.
- Occupied or unoccupied vehicles parked along railroad or transit right of way, shops, yards and facilities.

- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.
- As safely as possible, record subject and vehicle descriptions to include any license plate number.
- Know any contractors working on rail properties.
- Require the display of Identification cards of those contractors working on rail property.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles, especially if the customer displays an out-of-state driver's license or is driving a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state license plate.
- Hold job briefings with employees and remind them to remain vigilant.
- Report any missing or stolen rail equipment to the proper authorities.

THE FOLLOWING MAY BE MORE INDICATIVE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES BUT COULD INDICATE POTENTIAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES:

- Incidents where obstructions are placed on the tracks for passing trains to strike. These incidents may involve the placement of track equipment (rail spikes, railroad ties, tie plates) which can be found along the railroad property or the placement of other types of debris which have been dumped or abandoned on railroad property.
- Incidents where rail or transit property, equipment, vehicles, buildings, signal structures, trains, and / or locomotives are vandalized or broken into resulting in theft of rail property and equipment.

DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

If immediate assistance is needed, notify Railroad Police, Amtrak Police, Transit Police or your local law enforcement agency. 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.