



BJA
Bureau of
Justice Assistance

CAT

Communities Against Terrorism

FBI
Federal Bureau
of Investigation



POTENTIAL INDICATORS
of Terrorist Activities related to

Shopping Malls and Entertainment Facilities

What should I consider suspicious?

What should I do?

SUSPICIOUS APPEARANCE

- 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.
- Wearing backpacks or heavy coats when the weather is warm.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Overly interested in the following:
 - entry points.
 - peak days and hours of operation.
 - security personnel.
 - surveillance assets (including cameras).
 - access controls such as alarms, barriers, doors, gates, or locks.
- Loitering, parking, or standing in the same area over multiple days with no reasonable explanation.
- Observation of security reaction drills or procedures (may cause incident to observe response).
- Discreet use of cameras, note-taking, or video recorders over an extended period.
- Several men arriving together then splitting up, continuing to communicate by phone (dry run?).

SUSPICIOUS DISCUSSIONS

- Unusual interest in speaking with building maintenance personnel or security guards.
- Observations/questions about air conditioning, heating, and ventilation systems.
- Suspicious comments made regarding radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings, or anti-U.S. sentiments that appear to be out-of-place and provocative.

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.