

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Dive/Boat Shops

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Suspicious People:

- New customer who is reluctant to provide complete personal information.
- Customer who has not taken a safety course or does not have a certification card.
- Small groups of foreign individuals asking for scuba certification lessons “quickly.”
- An inexperienced diver trying to dive alone.

Suspicious Activities:

- Using cash for expensive transactions or a credit card in someone else’s name.
- Renting watercraft for an extended period.
- Purchasing more than one motorized underwater propelling device.
- Exhibiting unusual behavior regarding dive tanks.
- Wanting to dive in locations not normally associated with diving.
- Claiming to be an experienced boater/diver but
 - Exhibiting unfamiliarity with common terminology.
 - Requiring instruction on operating watercraft and/or diving equipment.
 - Unable to support the claim with a diving logbook.

- During training
 - Appearing uninterested in safety rules or sacrificing safety to complete training faster.
 - Displaying aggressive desire to get to a specific location or to the next stage of the class.
 - Trying to redirect basic lessons towards a specific or an advanced topic.
 - Asking about technical or specialty training (e.g., enclosed spaces, night diving, underwater navigation, underwater welding, mixed gas diving) without being able to explain their objective.
- Possessing
 - Containers unrelated to normal water sports activities.
 - Maps designating structures unrelated to water sports activities.
 - Forged or altered identification.
- Acting secretive or exhibiting guarded behavior (discouraging communication and/or observation of activities).
- Inquiring about
 - Local dams or companies along waterways.
 - “Rebreathing” equipment or certification to utilize rebreathing equipment (very costly) for extremely deep dives or extended dive times.

What Should I Do?

Know your customers.

- 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.



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Terrorism may be national or international in scope, but terrorist incidents occur locally and are preceded by a number of pre-incident activities. Individuals in the community are key to identifying these pre-incident activities. By learning what to look for, **you** can aid law enforcement officials in protecting the homeland.

Your knowledge of the diving/boating industry can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In this arena, **you** are best informed about what constitutes suspicious activity.

By being aware of what to look for and knowing how to report suspicious behavior, **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.

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious. Instead, focus on behavior and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation and that appear to be suspicious.

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. 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.

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