

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Farm Supply Stores

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- New customer who is not from local area.
- Refusing to provide address where fertilizer will be used or delivered.
- Acting nervous or impatient.
- Possessing little knowledge of crops, soil composition, field size, application methods, or fertilizers.
- Purchasing large quantity of pesticides, combustibles, or fertilizers containing ammonium nitrate out of season or with cash.
- Appearing to be interested only in ammonium nitrate; displaying no interest in alternative fertilizers or fertilizer combinations.
- Seeking chemicals with weight in excess of fertilizer distributor capacity.
- Making suspicious inquiries regarding equipment (e.g., tank size, spray range).
- Asking about acquiring vehicles equipped for spraying or hauling (e.g., crop dusters, crop sprayers, fuel tankers).
- Failing to state a legitimate agricultural use for the product.
- Storing agricultural supplies in unusual containers.
- Using a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport items such as fertilizers containing ammonium nitrate (particularly 34-0-0) or other combustible materials in large proportions.
- Using cash for large transactions or a credit card in someone else's name.



### 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.**

**Columbus, Ohio Division of Police  
Homeland Security Section  
Terrorism Early Warning Unit  
614-645-5401  
1-866-759-8005**

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 can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In your business 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.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-MU-BX-K002, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Farm Supply Stores



Columbus, Ohio Division of Police  
Homeland Security Section  
Terrorism Early Warning Unit  
614-645-5401  
1-866-759-8005