

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Rental Properties

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Renters who
 - Use cash for large transactions or a credit card in someone else's name.
 - Make unusual inquiries about local sites, including government, military, law enforcement, communications, and power facilities.
 - Refuse maintenance or service over an extended time.
 - Use entrances and exits that avoid the lobby.
 - Abandon a property.
 - Do not appear to be using a property for its intended purpose.
 - Receive an unusual number of package deliveries.
- Reports of
 - Burn marks or discoloration on walls or doors.
 - Unusual odors or liquids seeping from a property.
 - Unusual amounts of traffic.
- Parked vehicles in isolated areas.
- Unknown persons asking for directions to sensitive areas on a property, including utility and security rooms.
- Properties that contain furniture or surveillance equipment that is inconsistent with the intended use.
- Discovery of unusual items at a property or dumpsters
 - Fertilizer or agricultural products.
 - Chemicals or chemical containers.
 - Fuel or fuel containers.
 - Weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
 - Extremist training manuals or literature.
- Unusual requests for schematics or blueprints of a property.
- Locks being replaced without permission.
- Modifications to a property that are designed to conceal storage areas.

Columbus, Ohio Division of Police

**Homeland Security Section
Terrorism Early Warning Unit**

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What Should I Do?

Know your renters.

- Require valid ID from all new renters.
- Keep records of transactions.
- Talk to renters, 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.



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.

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