

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Rental Cars

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Reluctance to provide complete personal information when completing rental paperwork.
- Using cash for large transactions or a personal credit card in someone else's name.
- Providing multiple names on rental paperwork.
- Inability to recall the name used to rent a vehicle.
- Individuals surveilling the facility.
- Returned vehicles that contain
 - Unusual burn marks or odors.
 - Blueprints, photographs, or video of buildings and landmarks.
 - Extremist training manuals or literature.
 - Surveillance equipment.
 - Receipts for hazardous items.
 - Weapons.
 - Explosives.
 - Maps with sensitive locations marked.
- Efforts to quickly collect deposits for vehicles reported as stolen.
- Unusual questions regarding
 - A limousine's or other vehicle's dimensions, fuel capacity, or interior volume.
 - Local sites, including government, military, law enforcement, communications, and power facilities.
- Reports of abandoned rental vehicles, particularly those near
 - Military bases.
 - Government buildings.
 - Power plants.
 - Shopping malls.
 - Stadiums.
 - Schools.



What Should I Do?

Know your customers.

- Require a valid driver's license from all customers.
- Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.

Report missing or stolen vehicles or license plates to law enforcement authorities.

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

614-645-5410

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 Rental Cars



Columbus, Ohio Division of Police
Homeland Security Section
Terrorism Early Warning Unit
614-645-5410
1-866-759-8005