

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hobby Shops

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Demonstrating unusual interest in remote-controlled aircraft.
- Demonstrating interest that does not seem genuine.
- Inquiring about remote controls and model aircraft payload capacity and maximum range.
- Inquiring about learning to fly expensive giant-scale aircraft without first learning to fly small-scale aircraft.
- Possessing little knowledge of activity for which the purchase is intended.
- Exhibiting unusual interest or specific interest in rocket motors or igniters.
- Demonstrating no interest or enthusiasm for the hobby or sport.
- Shoplifting or purchasing
  - Large quantity of model aircraft fuel.
  - Several large aircraft, engines, or transmitters.
  - Model rocket motor igniters without adequate knowledge.
  - Large quantity of paintball equipment and supplies with very little information about local paintball activities.
- 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.**

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Homeland Security Section  
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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 hobby shops 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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