



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Mass Gatherings for Community Events

Each indicator listed below may be, by itself, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, no single indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

People Who:

- Are overly interested in security procedures for the event
- Attempt to solicit sensitive event or participant information through personal contact or by telephone, mail or email at a level beyond mere curiosity
- Attempts to access a secured area by circumventing established entry control points
- Present false or misleading credentials
- Are video recording or monitoring activities, taking notes, using cameras, maps, binoculars around the event route in an unusual or surreptitious manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person
- May be mapping out routes, playing out scenarios with other people, monitoring key facilities along the event route, timing traffic lights or traffic flow, or other suspicious activities
- Loiter, park, or stand in the same area for an extended period of time with no reasonable explanation
- Make expressed or implied threatening comments/threats of violence against the US or individuals
- Significantly alter appearance from visit to visit (shave beard, change hair color, style of dress)

- Have missing hand or fingers, chemical burns, strange odors or bright colored stains on clothing
- Wear outer garments not appropriate for the weather/seasons.

Observations:

- Vehicle(s) parked near the event location for a long period of time; or in restricted zones
- Vehicle(s) that appear to be weighted down; have protruding or visible wires; fresh paint; missing plates
- Unusual chemical smells or odors
- Ownerless or suspicious bags left close to the event area
- Missing event badges, uniforms, or identification.
- Damaged or tampered with infrastructure surrounding the event; manhole covers, wires, hoses, lighting, etc.

Outside-Event Providers -Taxi, Limo, Shuttle, and Buses:

- Overly willing to run sensitive routes and pick-ups
- Seek additional access or are encountered outside of duty areas or make last minute changes to drivers/vehicles
- Park for extended time or in restricted area, possibly to observe security responses.

Note: There may be a legitimate and lawful reason why these indicators are observed. Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent. We are asking you to determine when that is *not* the case so that the circumstances may be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. 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. *It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different does not mean that he or she is suspicious.*

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- ✓ 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 or call 911.

Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, **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.

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