Be Alert!

Persons involved in terrorist activity often exhibit indicators that if observed could identify a potential impending crime or terrorist attack. The following is a list of some of the characteristics of such persons that you should be aware of.

You CAN identify a terrorist threat by observing suspicious activity that may lead to a criminal act!

Recognizing Suspicious Activity

Identifying suspicious activity is not a hard science. You have to rely on your judgment. Your suspicion of a threat could be confirmed with one incident. It could take a series of incidents. In the long run, it comes down to:

- Experience
- Judgment
- Commonsense

Unusual Requests for Information

Unusual requests for information can be a warning sign of terrorist activity:

- A telephone request at work asking about the security system
- Questions about the habits of your Chief Executive Officer
- A mail survey asking for comments on the response time and habits of emergency personnel

Although possibly legitimate, these are also techniques used by terrorists to gather information while planning an attack. Do NOT give out sensitive information unless you know the party you're talking to and they have a need for that information.

Help Prevent and Detect Terrorism

If you observe or suspect terrorist activity, contact the Miami-Dade Police Department or the local Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) immediately.

If there is an emergency situation call 9-1-1 or contact your local police department.

1-866-58-Alert

Citizen Terror Tip Line

Miami-Dade Police Department Non-Emergency
(305) 4POLICE

FBI Miami, JTTF
(305) 944-9101

Local Government Services
3-1-1

http://www.miamidade.gov/homeland/

Miami-Dade Police Department
Robert Parker, Director

HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU

Law Enforcement Terrorist Awareness GUIDE

GENERAL PUBLIC

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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Unusual Interest in High Risk or Symbolic Targets

Maybe you are at a National Monument and you notice a person nearby taking a lot of photos. Not unusual. But then you notice that he is only taking photos of the surveillance cameras, crash barriers at the entrances, and access control procedures. **Is that normal for a tourist? Absolutely not!**

The following should cause a heightened sense of concern:

- Unusual interest
- Surveillance
- Inappropriate photographs or videos
- Note-taking
- Drawing of diagrams
- Annotating maps
- Using binoculars or night vision devices

Unusual Activity

Unusual activity does not necessarily mean that terrorist activity is happening, but it doesn't hurt to be aware of:

- People acting furtively and suspiciously
- People avoiding eye contact
- People departing quickly when seen or approached
- People in places they don't belong
- A strong odor coming from a building or vehicle
- An overloaded vehicle
- Fluid leaking from a vehicle, other than the engine or gas tank
- People overdressed for the weather

Providing an Accurate Report

In order to be as helpful as possible with terrorist investigations, it is important to give a thorough report when notifying law enforcement. The following are guidelines, suggestions, and the type of detail you will need to supply to an officer responding to your call of suspicious activity.

Keep in mind, the responding officer may only have the information you gave at the time of your call.

There are two key elements in giving a good report:

- **ACCURACY** means reporting what you saw and nothing more. Do NOT embellish to make the situation sound more important. However, it is appropriate to include the reason the activity seemed suspicious, even if it's simply, "It wasn't normal"
- **TIMELINESS** means that after a certain period of time, the suspicious situation will change; people will leave or possibly alter their appearance. It's very important to report anything suspicious immediately after you observed it

What to Report

It is important for the responding officer to quickly spot the suspicious person or activity. You can help by providing details and creating a "word picture." Changeable details such as activity are important but may not be the same once the officer arrives. Permanent details are very important because they are difficult to change quickly

When reporting a person, include:

- Hair color
- Facial hair
- Race
- Age
- Sex
- Size
- Scars
- Tattoos
- Disabilities

When reporting a vehicle, include:

• Make • Model • Color • Body damage • Bumper stickers • Accessories • License plate number

What to Report

Practice developing descriptions of vehicles you see on your commute or people you encounter in your every-day activities. The more you practice, the better your observation skills will become and the better you will do when nervous or excited.

When reporting suspicious activity:

- Never endanger yourself!
- Never confront suspicious activity!
- Tell just what you saw!
- Tell why it is suspicious!
- Write it ALL down after you report it!

Who to Call Emergency:

If you think a life is in danger or a serious crime is about to be committed, call 9-1-1. If you are within an office building or place of business, you may first need to dial an access number for an outside line.

NON-EMERGENCY: If it is not an emergency, but you think that the person or situation should be investigated, do NOT tie up the 9-1-1 emergency number, instead contact the Miami-Dade Police Department by calling the phone numbers listed on this brochure. Perhaps you notice suspicious activity that doesn't war-rant immediate attention or a past incident or person is still on your mind, you can pass that information along to authorities by calling the phone numbers on this brochure.