



Suspicious Activity Reporting Indicators and Behaviors

Tools for
Analysts and
Investigators

Behaviors

Descriptions

Potential Criminal or Noncriminal Activities Requiring Additional Information During the Vetting Process or Investigation

Note: When the behavior or activity involves behavior that may be lawful or is constitutionally protected activity, the investigating law enforcement agency will carefully assess the information and gather as much information as possible before taking any action, including documenting and validating the information as terrorism-related and sharing it with other law enforcement agencies.

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| Eliciting Information | Questioning individuals at a level beyond mere curiosity about particular facets of a facility's or building's purpose, operations, security procedures, etc., that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. |
| Testing of Security | Interactions with or challenges to installations, personnel, or systems that reveal physical personnel or cybersecurity capabilities. |
| Recruiting | Building operations teams and contacts, personnel data, banking data, or travel data. |
| Photography | Taking pictures or video of facilities, buildings, or infrastructure in a manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. Examples include taking pictures or video of infrequently used access points, personnel performing security functions (patrols, badge/vehicle checking), security-related equipment (perimeter fencing, security cameras), etc. All reporting on photography should be done within the totality of the circumstances. |
| Observation/ Surveillance | Demonstrating unusual interest in facilities, buildings, or infrastructure beyond mere casual or professional (e.g., engineers) interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious. Examples include observation through binoculars, taking notes, attempting to measure distances, etc. |
| Materials Acquisition/ Storage | Acquisition of unusual quantities of precursor materials, such as cell phones, pagers, fuel, and timers, such that a reasonable person would suspect possible criminal activity. |
| Acquisition of Expertise | Attempts to obtain or conduct training in security concepts (military weapons or tactics) or other unusual capabilities that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. |
| Weapons Discovery | Discovery of unusual amounts of weapons or explosives that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. |
| Sector-Specific Incident | Actions associated with a characteristic of unique concern to specific sectors (such as the public health sector) with regard to their personnel, facilities, systems, or functions. |

Defined Criminal Activity and Potential Terrorism Nexus Activity

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| Breach/Attempted Intrusion | Unauthorized personnel attempting to enter or actually entering a restricted area or protected site. Impersonation of authorized personnel (e.g., police/security, janitor). |
| Misrepresentation | Presenting false or misusing insignia, documents, and/or identification to misrepresent one's affiliation to cover possible illicit activity. |
| Theft/Loss/Diversion | Stealing or diverting something associated with a facility/infrastructure (e.g., badges, uniforms, identification, emergency vehicles, technology, or documents [classified or unclassified] that are proprietary to the facility). |
| Sabotage/Tampering/ Vandalism | Damaging, manipulating, or defacing part of a facility/infrastructure or protected site. |
| Cyberattack | Compromising or attempting to compromise or disrupt an organization's information technology infrastructure. |
| Expressed or Implied Threat | Communicating a spoken or written threat to damage or compromise a facility/infrastructure. |
| Aviation Activity | Operation of an aircraft in a manner that reasonably may be interpreted as suspicious or posing a threat to people or property. May or may not be in violation of Federal Aviation Regulations. |