FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Home Improvement and Large Retail Stores

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Shoplifting or purchasing
  - Large quantity of ammunition or model aircraft fuel.
  - Firearms and ammunition out of season.
  - Large quantity of watches, **electronic timers**, or kitchen timers.
  - A combination of **unusual items** (e.g., sponges, candles, matches, bolt cutters).
  - Unusual quantity of compressed fuels (e.g., propane).
  - Night-vision equipment and camouflage apparel.
  - Unusually **large quantity of fertilizer type 34-0-0 or 32-2-0.**
  - **Pipe (particularly in short lengths), end caps, and pipe nipples in the same transaction, particularly when vague about their use.**
- Making suspicious inquiries about equipment (tank size, spray range).
- Using a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport combustible chemicals, fertilizers containing **ammonium nitrate (particularly 34-0-0)**, or other materials.
- Asking about a particular fertilizer without a stated purpose or displaying no interest in alternative fertilizers.
- Refusing to complete appropriate paperwork for firearms purchases.
- Using **cash** for large transactions.
- Using a credit card in someone else's name.

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.

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What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- ✓ 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.

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.

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. 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.

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