What to Remember When Reporting Suspicious Activity

The Five “W”s

What is happening?
Who is doing it?
Where is it taking place?
When did you observe it?
Why is it suspicious?

When determining whether activity is suspicious, please remember to focus on the actual behavior. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious. We are committed to ensuring that the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of our citizens are preserved.

Report Suspicious Activity

Submit a Tip or Lead to:

www.SDLECC.org

Or
Contact the San Diego Joint Terrorism Task Force:
Phone: 858-320-1800

San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center
Phone: 858-495-7200 • Fax: 858-503-5621
Email: info@sd-lecc.org

San Diego County
Office of Emergency Services
Phone: 858-565-3490
Email: oes@sdcounty.ca.gov
Website: www.ReadySanDiego.org

This document was prepared under a grant from FEMA’s Grant Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of FEMA’s Grant.
Eight Signs of Terrorism

1. Surveillance
   - Terrorists may conduct surveillance to determine a target’s strengths and weaknesses. Be aware of someone who appears to be monitoring security personnel or equipment, or gauging emergency response time. Suspicious activities could include using vision enhancing devices, acquiring floor plans or blueprints, and showing interest in security and access to facilities.

2. Elicitation
   - A terrorist may try to gain information about the operations and security of a potential target, possibly an important place such as a power plant, stadium, or school.
   - It could be gathered many ways by phone, email, in person, or even by gaining employment at the location.

3. Testing Security
   - Someone may use different methods to test security, such as trespassing into a restricted area or leaving a bag unattended in a public place to see how long it takes for people or security to respond.

4. Funding
   - Terrorists need to raise money for their operations and spend it in a way that doesn’t draw attention.
   - This could be done many ways through crimes such as drugs and counterfeit merchandise sales, burglary, or even funneling money from legitimate businesses or non-profit organizations.
   - Be aware of unusually large transactions paid with cash or gift cards, or someone soliciting a donation for a charity you’ve never heard of.

5. Acquiring Supplies
   - To conduct an attack, terrorists may need a variety of supplies, such as weapons, transportation, and communication systems.
   - Suspicious activities could include a vehicle left in an unusual place; stockpiling fertilizers, weapons, even one-time use cell phones; acquiring or stealing uniforms; and forging personal identification or passports.

6. Impersonation
   - Terrorists may impersonate law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS or paramedic personnel, mail carriers, or company employees to gain information.
   - Someone who seems suspicious in what they say or do on the job could be a red flag.

7. Rehearsal
   - Terrorists often rehearse a planned attack, possibly several times, to make sure their operation runs smoothly. This may include measuring response time by emergency responders, and possibly using police radios.

8. Deployment
   - This is when terrorists are putting their plans into place, getting into position, moving equipment and supplies, and launching an attack.
   - If you believe there is imminent danger, call 911 immediately.