

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hobby Shops

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups who

- Demonstrate unusual interest in remote-controlled aircraft or interest that does not seem genuine.
- Exhibit unusual or specific interest in rocket motors or igniters without apparent hobby or vocational interest.
- Demonstrate no interest in or enthusiasm for the airplane/rocket hobby or sport related to a purchase.
- Attempt to locate/purchase unusually large quantities of acetone, timers, radio control equipment, and/or mercury switches.

Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- Remote controls and model aircraft payload capacity and maximum range.
- Learning to fly expensive giant-scale aircraft without first learning to fly small-scale aircraft.
- Installing camera equipment on remote-controlled model aircraft.
- Purchasing mercury switches and showing no interest in alternative types of switches.

Other potential indicators

- Shoplifting or purchasing
 - Large quantities of model aircraft fuel.
 - Several large aircraft, engines, or transmitters.
 - Model rocket motor igniters without adequate knowledge.
 - Large quantities of paintball equipment and supplies with very little information requested or knowledge about local paintball activities.

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life are different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious.



What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution

- ✓ Know your customers.
- ✓ Require valid ID from all new customers.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Watch for behaviors and activities that are unusual or out of place.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, behaviors, activities, and/or vehicles.

Remember...

- ✓ If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.
- ✓ Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.
- ✓ Focus on behaviors and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation.
- ✓ Individually, these activities could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate.

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 these 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 in this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.