

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Boat Shops

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups who

- Are reluctant to provide relevant personal information required on rental documents.
- Display forged or altered identification.
- Rent a watercraft for an extended period without a reasonable explanation.
- Surveil the facility or express interest in activities beyond mere casual or professional interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious.
- Redirect basic lessons towards a specific or advanced topic.
- Appear uninterested in safety rules or how to refuel the boat during training.
- Appear uninterested in carrying required safety equipment; e.g., life preservers, fire extinguishers.
- Display an inappropriate desire to reach a specific location or stage of a class.
- Attempt to overload a vessel with military-style equipment or containers unrelated to normal water sports activities.
- Load potentially dangerous materials onto a pleasure boat; e.g., chemical drums, fertilizer, an unusual quantity of firearms.
- Carry maps designating structures unrelated to water sports activities.
- Act secretly or exhibit guarded behavior in order to discourage communication and/or observation of activities.
- Attempt to shadow military vessels.
- Attempt to board a clearly marked charter boat without authorization.
- Do not have the appropriate equipment for their stated purpose.
- Claim to be experienced boaters but appear to be unfamiliar with:
 - Common boating operations and terminology.
 - Safety regulations.
 - Required equipment.

Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- A vessel's dimensions, fuel capacity, or weight capacity.
- Local dams, bridges, power plants, military bases, factories, or companies along waterways.
- Shipping traffic or shipping channels.
- Boating in restricted water space.
- Anchoring in abnormal locations.
- Docks in secluded or unusual locations.

Other potential indicators

- Reports of abandoned boats.
- Returned boats that contain:
 - Unusual burn marks or odors.
 - Chemical residue.
 - Blueprints, photographs, or video of buildings and landmarks.
 - Surveillance equipment.
 - Maps marked with sensitive locations that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution

- ✓ Require valid ID from new customers.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- ✓ Report any missing or stolen fuel, vehicles, or other equipment to law enforcement authorities.

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.

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.