

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Parks and Public Lands

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

#### Individuals or groups who

- Are unable to provide a satisfactory reason for being at the location, if requested.
- Possess tools or weapons that are inappropriate for the property and would arouse suspicion.
- Steal or make other unauthorized attempts to acquire items bearing official emblems (e.g., uniforms, ID badges/passes, vehicles).
- Discard usable and/or new clothing items and tools.
- Discard animal or plant breeding records.
- Block roads and cause disruptions.
- Conduct covert gatherings/meetings in a manner that would arouse suspicion of potentially criminal activity.
- Appear to be avoiding security and law enforcement.
- Post guards or lookouts for gatherings.
- Conduct surveillance of structures located on public lands (e.g., guard booths, ranger towers, dams, power plants) beyond mere casual or professional interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious.
- May be in the act of illegally crossing an international border.
- Conduct military-style training in a manner that would arouse suspicion.

#### Other potential indicators

- Evidence of:
  - Firearms training, if prohibited by law or facility rule.
  - Something being buried without a reasonable explanation.
- Spiking of trees.
- Creation of a compound-like structure.
- Gunfire that is inappropriate for the setting.
- Criminal incidents that appear to be hate-related.
- Criminal incidents, including vandalism or arson, on or near public lands that target:
  - Research facilities.
  - Logging sites, vehicles, and equipment.
  - Landfills or excavation sites.
  - Utility lines or cell phone towers.
  - Off-road, recreational, or sport-utility vehicles.
  - Park structures or employees.
  - Park construction projects, including structures, roads, and trails.
  - Fur trappers and/or animal traps.
- Banners, signs, vehicles, or graffiti bearing hate symbols or the name or logo of a criminal extremist group.
- Discovery of dangerous items; e.g., explosives, arson devices, incendiaries, weapons, or chemicals.
- Theft of potentially dangerous products; e.g., insecticides, pesticides, sprayers, ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

### What Should I Do?

#### Be part of the solution

- ✓ Know what materials, equipment, delivery vehicles, and staff are routinely onsite.
- ✓ Watch for materials, behaviors, and activities that are out of place.
- ✓ Know the property's rules and regulations.
- ✓ Talk to visitors, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, behaviors, activities, and/or vehicles.
- ✓ Alert campground hosts of items to watch for.
- ✓ Install and monitor security cameras around the property, if appropriate.
- ✓ Secure potentially hazardous products.
- ✓ Report any missing or stolen fuel, vehicles, or other equipment to law enforcement authorities.
- ✓ Report vehicles abandoned on the property 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.*