

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hotels and Motels

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups of guests who

- Request specific room assignments or locations without a reasonable explanation, if requested.
- Arrive with unusually large amounts of luggage or no luggage.
- Make unusual inquiries about local sites, including government, military, law enforcement, communications, and power facilities.
- Refuse cleaning services over an extended time.
- Use entrances and exits that avoid the lobby and employees in a manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
- Abandon a room and leave belongings behind.
- Do not leave their room for an extended period of time.
- Change or disguise their appearance.
- Rent a room and fail to use it without a logical reason.
- Attempt to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, identification, or access cards without authorization.

Other potential indicators

- Guest rooms with:
 - Burn marks or discoloration on the walls or doors.
 - Unusual amounts of traffic.
- Discovery of unusual items or quantities of items in guest rooms or facility dumpsters:
 - Fertilizer or agricultural products.
 - Chemicals or chemical containers, including hydrogen peroxide bottles.
 - Fuel or fuel containers.
 - Weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
 - Weapons and explosives training manuals related to terrorism.
 - Fraudulent credit cards or documents.
- Unusual odors or liquids seeping from a guest room.
- Parked vehicles in isolated areas for no logical reason.

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

- ✓ 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.