

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Rental Cars

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

#### Individuals or groups who

- Appear reluctant to provide required personal information when completing rental paperwork.
- Are unable to recall the name used to rent a vehicle.
- Surveil the facility or express interest in activities beyond mere casual or professional interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious.

#### Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- Dimensions, fuel capacity, or interior volume of a limousine or other vehicle.
- Local sites, including government, military, communications, power facilities, and law enforcement.

#### Other potential indicators

- Returned vehicles with:
  - License plates that have been switched or altered.
  - Unusual burn marks or odors.
  - Blueprints, photographs, or video of buildings and landmarks.
  - Surveillance equipment.
  - Weapons and explosives training manuals related to terrorism.
  - Receipts for hazardous items.
  - Weapons and/or explosives.
  - Maps marked with sensitive infrastructure locations that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
- Reports of abandoned rental vehicles, particularly those near:
  - Military bases.
  - Government buildings.
  - Power plants.
  - Shopping malls.
  - Hotels/resorts.
  - Stadiums.
  - Schools.

*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.
- ✓ Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Watch for behaviors and activities that are 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.

