

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Biological Material Suppliers

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups who

- Attempt to purchase:
 - Materials without an account and are unable to prove affiliation with a reputable institution.
 - Supplies that appear to be inconsistent with their mission or mandate.
 - Components that could be combined to produce dangerous products.
 - Precursor or dual-use chemicals.
- Place orders on an established account but are unable to provide/verify account information.
- Are unable to provide a business, school, or laboratory address.
- Purchase unusually large quantities of biological or laboratory products.
- Request shipment of biological or laboratory supplies to a location other than the location on record.
- Are unfamiliar with hazardous material handling and storage regulations for their purchase.
- Store biological products in unusual locations or containers.
- Surveil the facility.
- Test security measures.
- Attempt to
 - Use cash or a personal credit card for payment.
 - Gain unauthorized access to storage areas.
 - Impersonate official personnel by acquiring items bearing officials' emblems (e.g., uniforms, ID badges/passes, vehicles).
- Request that a freight shipper hold a dangerous product for "pickup" or that dangerous products be shipped to a private residence.
- Use a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport hazardous materials.

Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- Operations, security, or layout of processing facility or warehouses.

Other potential indicators

- Discovery of unauthorized vehicles or other out-of-place items near facilities.

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.
- ✓ Report suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- ✓ Report missing or stolen chemicals, vehicles, or other equipment.

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.