

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Bus and Train Terminals

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups who

- Check the locations of security personnel and cameras.
- Attempt to avoid security personnel and cameras.
- Diagram the terminal or take photos/videos of the property or nearby properties (especially of security apparatus and structural details) in a manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
- Surveil the terminal or follow departing buses or trains.
- Buy a ticket without concern for the destination.
- Check luggage but fail to board.
- Ask a passenger to carry on and/or check luggage or other items for them.
- Attempt to force their way onto a bus or train at the last minute without a ticket.
- Dress in unseasonably bulky and inappropriate attire that would generally be considered suspicious.
- Make unauthorized attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, or identification.
- Remove ceiling tiles, seat cushions, wall panels, or other items.
- Cause a disruption (possibly to identify and evaluate security response procedures or to distract security/patrons).
- Document times or locomotive numbers for freight trains.
- Attempt to board a clearly marked chartered bus without authorization.

Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- Security procedures or camera locations.
- Dimensions, fuel capacity, or interior volume of a bus or train.
- Freight train traffic, hazardous materials, or chemical loads.

Other potential indicators

- Ticketed individuals who leave after boarding and fail to reboard.
- Antigovernment or hate graffiti at the terminal.
- Parcels that emit strange odors, leak fluid, and/or have dangling wires.
- Vehicles parked in inappropriate locations.
- Clothing, serviceable tools, or medical or scientific equipment in terminal refuse containers.
- Unattended bags in public areas.
- Bomb threats against the terminal.
- Repeat intruder alarms or breaches of secure areas.
- Damage to security fixtures (e.g., lights, fences, or cameras).

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.