

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hotels and Motels

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Guests who
  - Request specific room assignments or locations.
  - Use cash for large transactions or a credit card in someone else's name.
  - Arrive with unusual amounts of luggage.
  - Make unusual inquiries about local sites, including government, military, police, communications, and power facilities.
  - Refuse cleaning service over an extended time.
  - Use entrances and exits that avoid the lobby.
  - Abandon a room and leave behind clothing and toiletry items.
  - Do not leave their room.
  - Change their appearance.
  - Leave the property for several days and then return.
- Thefts of official vehicles, uniforms, identification, and access cards.
- Reports of guest rooms with
  - Burn marks or discoloration on the walls or door.
  - Unusual odors or liquids seeping from a guest room.
  - Unusual amounts of traffic.
- Discovery of unusual items in guest rooms or facility dumpsters
  - Fertilizer or agricultural products.
  - Chemicals or chemical containers.
  - Fuel or fuel containers.
  - Weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
  - Extremist training manuals or literature.
  - Fraudulent credit cards or documents.
- Parked vehicles in isolated areas.

**Columbus, Ohio Division of Police  
Homeland Security Section  
Terrorism Early Warning Unit  
614-645-5410  
1-866-759-8005**

### What Should I Do?

**If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.**

- Report vehicles abandoned on the property to law enforcement authorities.
- Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and vehicles.

**Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.**



Terrorism may be national or international in scope, but terrorist incidents occur locally and are preceded by a number of pre-incident activities. Individuals in the community are key to identifying these pre-incident activities. By learning what to look for, **you** can aid law enforcement officials in protecting the homeland.

Your knowledge of the hospitality industry can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In this arena, **you** are best informed about what constitutes suspicious activity.

By being aware of what to look for and knowing how to report suspicious behavior, **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.

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious. Instead, focus on behavior and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation and that appear to be suspicious.

The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years. Some of the 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.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-MU-BX-K002, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hotels and Motels



Columbus, Ohio Division of Police  
Homeland Security Section  
Terrorism Early Warning Unit  
614-645-5410  
1-866-759-8005