What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Related to Individual Appearance, General Behavior, and Communications:

- Alters appearance from visit to visit (beard shaved off, hair color changed, etc.)
- Insists on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s)
- Identification provided is inconsistent or suspect or demands identity “privacy”
- Customer travels illogical distance to participate, or location is illogical for group
- Nervous/suspicious behavior or evasive about group’s purpose (ask other patrons about group)
- Interest in learning offensive moves in a confined space
- Interest in learning the use of hidden weapons
- Interest in learning kill and restraint techniques with no occupational need
- Individuals who together are interested in learning group tactics
- Participants making racist or extreme religious statements
- Unusual comments made regarding anti-US, radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings

Related to Group Activities, Training Activities, and Training Location:

- Incorporating close combat or hand-to-hand fighting into training
- Designing a paintball field to mimic security checkpoints (such as schools, theaters, airports, malls)
- Using diagrams to create obstacles (may resemble building or airport security, etc.)
- Creating scenarios that incorporate law enforcement
- Practicing kidnapping or ambush scenarios; may simulate use of RPG or explosives
- Referring to military/jihad training manuals or clearly submitting to a leader in the group
- Operating a private facility that’s not available or advertised to the public
- Converting large plots of rural land to paintball fields or military style training camps

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.

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- Require valid ID from all new customers.
- 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/or vehicles.
- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.

Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

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 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. 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.

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