What Should I Consider Suspicious?

People or Groups Who:
- Provide identification that is inconsistent or suspect or demands identity “privacy”
- Insist on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s)
- Significantly alters appearance from visit to visit (shaving beard, changing hair color, style of dress, etc)
- Have missing hand/fingers, chemical burns, strange odors or bright colored stains on clothing
- Make racist or extreme religious statements coupled with comments that are violent or appear to condone violence
- Make suspicious comments regarding anti-US, radical theology vague or cryptic warnings that suggest or appear to endorse the use violence in support of a cause
- Demonstrate interest in uses that do not seem consistent with the intended use of the item being purchased
- Possess little knowledge of intended purchase items of items
- Make bulk purchases of items to include:
  - Weatherproofed ammunition or match containers
  - Meals Ready to Eat
  - Night Vision Devices; night flashlights; gas masks
  - High capacity magazines
  - Bi-pods or tri-pods for rifles

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.
- Keep records of purchases.
- 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.