

Your impression and assessment—based on your professional/business experience—are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern, or set of circumstances are unusual and/or suspicious in nature.

If any of these conditions are observed, please contact:  
**The Boston Regional Intelligence Center: 617-343-4328**  
[BRIC@pd.boston.gov](mailto:BRIC@pd.boston.gov)

**For emerging situations that may require an immediate response,  
please call 911.**

## BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



### BOSTON REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Phone: 617-343-4328 | Fax: 617-343-5222 | [BRIC@pd.boston.gov](mailto:BRIC@pd.boston.gov)

## Suspicious Activity Behavior & Indicators For Public Sector Partners

(U//NP) This document is intended to highlight several suspicious activity behaviors and indicators that may be indicative of preoperational terrorist activity for business owners and private sector security personnel. This product focuses on behaviors and indicators that would be of interest prior to any major event. This proactive public safety strategy is an ongoing attempt to provide our private sector partners with some information on suspicious activity.

At this time, the BRIC is not aware of any suspicious or credible threats to the MBHSR; however, behaviors outlined in this brochure have been identified as being possibly indicative of preoperational and operational activity.

**In the course of official activities, and to the extent permitted by law, police, fire, EMS, and security personnel are encouraged to report activities of a suspicious nature; however, this information should not be collected solely on First Amendment protected activities or on the basis of any racial, ethnic, religious or other profile. The BRIC is not advocating interference with the rights of law-abiding citizens. There may be a legitimate reason why some of the behaviors and indicators described in this brochure are present.**

This product was created with references to multiple (U//FOUO) federal products on suspicious activity.

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**Boston Police Department** | Mayor Martin J. Walsh |  
Commissioner William B. Evans

## PREOPERATIONAL BEHAVIORS & INDICATORS

- **Eliciting Information:** Questions focused on operations, security procedures, entry points, security checkpoints, crowds, access controls such as alarms, locks and cameras; or questions about a facility's air conditioning, heating and ventilation system. This includes individuals questioning employees in person, on or off-site, over the phone or via the Internet.
- **Testing of Security:** Deliberate acts that would prompt a law enforcement or first responder response in order to observe response times and actions. For example: purposely dropping a package and moving away from the area, parking illegally and waiting to see how long until the vehicle gets towed, or making false fire alarms and bomb threats.
- **Photography:** Taking pictures or video of facilities, infrastructure, personnel, surroundings, or crowds.
- **Observation/Surveillance:** Showing unusual interest in facility/ infrastructure/personnel and monitoring the activity of people, facilities, processes or systems; for example, taking notes, drawing maps, observing first responder drills or procedures; this may include multiple false alarms or emergency calls to the same locations or similar venues.
- **Theft/Loss/Diversion:** Stealing or diverting something associated with a facility/infrastructure; for example: badges, uniforms, identification, emergency vehicles, technology, or documents; these items may be used to misrepresent one's identity in order to gain access to secure areas or information.
- **Sabotage/Tampering/Vandalism:** Damaging, manipulating, or defacing part of a facility/infrastructure, such as security cameras or a protected site.
- **Expressed or Implied Threat:** Communicating a spoken or written threat to damage or compromise a facility/event/person.
- **Materials Acquisition/Storage:** Acquisition of unusual quantities of precursor materials. For example: cell phones, chemicals, fertilizers, fuel, timers, toxic materials, fireworks
- **Other:** Other behaviors that may be suspicious in nature include: hotel guests who deny housekeeping from performing routine cleaning duties over a period of several days; evidence that guests have changed their physical appearance, a request at check in for views of specific areas of interest; suspicious parcels and packages (protruding wires, unusual smells, greasy marks, unknown source/sender); possession or viewing of extremists propaganda, including **unusual searches on public computers, such as instructions on how to make weapons, or web browsing of extremist websites that advocate violence.**

## OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

(U//NP) Below is a list of behaviors operatives may exhibit prior to launching an attack; please note that **an individual displaying one of more of these indicators cannot necessarily be identified as a probable terrorist. These indicators need to be considered with other factors.**

- (U//FOUO) Inappropriate attire, such as loose or bulky clothing inconsistent with weather conditions
- (U//FOUO) Carrying heavy luggage or wearing a backpack
- (U//FOUO) Unfocused eyes, disregard for surrounding activities or persons
- (U//FOUO) Unresponsiveness to authoritative voice commands, salutations, or other routine distractions
- (U//FOUO) Behavior consistent with lack of future plans, such as purchase of a one-way ticket or lack of concern about getting receipts, receiving change from purchases, paying in cash, or extended hotel stays with no end date
- (U//FOUO) Unnatural gait or posture
- (U//FOUO) Ambivalent or anxious behavior, such as retracing steps or movements, or engaging in seemingly purposeless actions.

## PROTECTIVE MEASURES

(U//NP) The BRIC would like to highlight the following protective measures to encourage businesses to take a proactive role:

- (U//FOUO) Establish a comprehensive security plan and emergency response plan
- (U//FOUO) Test communication and camera equipment with emergency responders
- **(U//FOUO) Educate staff and employees about possible suspicious activity indicators**
- (U//FOUO) Remain alert and vigilant for suspicious individuals / objects and report anything that sticks out as suspicious to the Boston Police Department.