



BJA
Bureau of
Justice Assistance

CAT

Communities Against Terrorism

FBI
Federal Bureau
of Investigation



POTENTIAL INDICATORS
of Terrorist Activities related to

Dive/Boat Shops

What should I consider suspicious?

What should I do?

SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

- New customer who is reluctant to provide complete personal information.
- Customer who has not taken a safety course or does not have a certification card.
- Small groups of individuals asking for scuba certification lessons “quickly”.
- An inexperienced diver trying to dive alone.
- Exhibiting unusual behavior regarding dive tanks.
- Wanting to dive in locations not normally associated with diving.
- Claiming to be an experienced boater/diver, yet:
 - Exhibiting unfamiliarity with common terminology.
 - Requiring instruction on operating watercraft and/or diving equipment.
 - Unable to support the claim with a diving logbook.

SUSPICIOUS PURCHASING ACTIVITY

- Using cash for expensive transactions.
- Using a credit card in someone else’s name.
- Renting watercraft for an extended period.
- Purchasing more than one motorized underwater propelling device.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING TRAINING

- Appearing uninterested in safety rules or sacrificing safety to complete training faster.
- Displaying aggressive desire to get to a specific location or to the next stage of the class.
- Trying to redirect basic lessons towards a specific or an advanced topic.
- Asking about technical or specialty training (e.g., enclosed spaces, night diving, underwater navigation, underwater welding, mixed gas diving) without being able to explain their objective.

SUSPICIOUS POSSESSIONS

- Containers unrelated to normal water sports activities.
- Maps designating structures unrelated to water sports activities.
- Forged or altered identification.
- Acting secretive or exhibiting guarded behavior (discouraging communication and/or observation of activities).

SUSPICIOUS INQUIRIES

- Inquiries about local dams or companies along waterways.
- Inquiring about “rebreathing” equipment or certification to utilize rebreathing equipment (very costly) for extremely deep dives or extended dive times.

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.

To report suspicious activity, please call 1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto [HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).
In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE A PERSON’S SPEECH, ACTIONS, BELIEFS, APPEARANCE, OR WAY OF LIFE IS **DIFFERENT**; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PERSON IS **SUSPICIOUS**.



To report suspicious activity, please call 1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto [HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).
In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

Some of the indicators listed above are, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, the totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.