## Home Improvement Indicators and Large Retail Stores

### What should I consider suspicious?

**SHOPLIFTING OR PURCHASING**
- Large quantity of ammunition or model aircraft fuel.
- Firearms and ammunition out of season.
- Large quantity of watches, electronic timers, or kitchen timers.
- A combination of unusual items (e.g., sponges, candles, matches, bolt cutters).
- Unusual quantity of compressed fuels (e.g., propane).
- Night-vision equipment and camouflage apparel.
- Unusually large quantity of fertilizer type 34-0-0 or 32-2-0.
- Pipe (particularly in short lengths), end caps, and pipe nipples in the same transaction, particularly when vague about their use.

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES**
- Making suspicious inquiries about equipment (tank size, spray range).
- Using a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport combustible chemicals, fertilizers containing ammonium nitrate (particularly 34-0-0), or other materials.
- Asking about a particular fertilizer without a stated purpose or displaying no interest in alternative fertilizers.
- Refusing to complete appropriate paperwork for firearms purchases.
- Using cash for large transactions.
- Using a credit card in someone else’s name.

### What should I do?

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.**
- 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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To report suspicious activity, please call 1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV.

In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

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**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.**

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