



OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGIC ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION CENTER



POTENTIAL INDICATORS
of Terrorist Activities related to

Fireworks



What should I consider suspicious?

What is the law?

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Large quantity purchase, or delivery of a large quantity of fireworks to a non-licensed business or private home.
- Bundling or combining multiple fireworks devices to create a larger device (i.e. sparkler bombs).
- Sales of fireworks from private homes, from vehicles, from tents in parking lots, or from on-line ads such as Craig's List or eBay;
- Research on how to make fireworks and/or explosives.
- Research on how to convert fireworks into other items.
- Class 1.4G consumer fireworks are packaged in very colorful wrapping and boxes – note large quantities of the packing in the trash or dumpsters.
- Purchase of large quantity chemical precursors to make fireworks (explosives) such as ammonium nitrate, potassium perchlorate, sodium powder, black powder, aluminum chips or powder.
- Purchase of short (36 inch or less) pieces of large PVC plastic pipe, from 2 to 6 inch diameter, for use as mortars for launching Class 1.4G or Class 1.3G aerial shells.
- Injuries to hands, eyes, face from burns or explosions, missing fingers, strange odors.

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.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.

O.R.C. 3743 GOVERNS FIREWORKS USE IN OHIO

Primary types of fireworks:

- Trick and novelty – smoke, snaps, and/or sparklers.
- Class 1.4G consumer fireworks – firecrackers, bottle rockets, aerial shells less than 1½ inches diameter, anything that launches, projects, produces a loud report or blast noise.
- Class 1.3G commercial fireworks – aerial shells greater than 1½ inches diameter.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL REQUIREMENTS:

- All manufacturers, wholesalers, exhibitors and shippers of fireworks must have State Fire Marshal issued licenses for fireworks use. Currently, Ohio has only 48 licensed fireworks sales locations.
- Temporary sales permits are not issued.
- Retail outlets may stock and sell "trick and novelty" items only.

Consumer/Citizen Private Use:

- The only items that can be used in Ohio are designated "trick and novelty" which smoke, snap, and/or sparkle.
- In Ohio, consumer use of 1.4G fireworks (fire crackers, bottle rockets, etc.) is illegal per Ohio Revised Code 3743.65 (B).

Commercial Fireworks Shows:

- Under current state law, only a local fire and police chief/sheriff can issue permits for the exhibition of fireworks in Ohio.
- The applicant must be a licensed exhibitor by the State Fire Marshal and the fireworks must be purchased from a licensed wholesaler, manufacturer, or out-of-state shipper.
- The applicant must have appropriate insurance and the exhibition must comply with the safety provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and Fire Code (see O.R.C. 3743.50 through 3743.56).

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.