

What is Suspicious Activity?

Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Unusual items or situations:** A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package/luggage is unattended, a window/door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur.
- **Eliciting information:** A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.
- **Observation/surveillance:** Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

Some of these activities could be innocent—it's up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation. The activities above are not all-inclusive, but have been compiled based on studies of pre-operational aspects of both successful and thwarted terrorist events over several years.

Reporting Suspicious Activity

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including:

- **Who** or **what** you saw;
- **When** you saw it;
- **Where** it occurred; and
- **Why** it's suspicious.

If there is an emergency, call 9–1–1.

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/what-suspicious-activity>