



National Crime Prevention Council

Recognizing Terrorist Activity

Although the U.S. government is responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, citizens can take concrete steps in the community and in the workplace to help detect and deter suspected international terrorists. By being aware of your surroundings and knowing how and when to report crime, you can make a difference in the war on terrorism.

Signs of terrorist activity may include:

- someone bragging or talking about plans to harm citizens in violent attacks or who claims membership in a terrorist organization that espouses killing innocent people.
- suspicious packages, luggage, or mail that have been abandoned in a crowded place like an office building, an airport, a school, or a shopping center.
- suspicious letter or package that arrives in your mailbox. (Stay away from the letter or package and don't shake, bump or sniff it; wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.)
- someone suspiciously exiting a secured, non-public area near a train or bus depot, airport, tunnel, bridge, government building, or tourist attraction.
- any type of activity or circumstance that seems frightening or unusual within the normal routines of your neighborhood, community, and workplace.
- someone unfamiliar loitering in a parking lot, government building, or around a school or playground.
- someone using or threatening to use a gun or other weapon, place a bomb, or release a poisonous substance into the air, water, or food supply.
- strange odors, smoke, fire, or an explosion.
- abandoned vehicles.