



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Maritime Ports and Facilities

Each indicator listed below may be, by itself, 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, no single indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

People Who:

- Inquire about security of a port and/or port facility that do not work on the port or at a port facility.
- Try to enter the port and/or facility with fraudulent identification.
- Are found in unauthorized areas of the port or facility.
- Are observed on the port or grounds of a port facility after normal hours of operation.
- Attempt to buy or rent fishing or recreational vessels with cash for undefined use and for a short period of time.
- Display nervous or secretive behavior; sweating; avoids eye contact with authorities.
Are observed photographing or photo panning the port/facility, vessels, and port operations with a hidden or openly displayed camera, cell phone or drone. [Though it should be remembered that photography and recording are, in general, legal activities protected by the First Amendment.]
- Arrive or leave with unusual items, luggage or packages, e.g. items that appear unrelated to maritime activities and/or seem otherwise out of place.
- Are observed leaving unattended packages on the docks and/or port facilities.
- Appear to be monitoring port entry and exit points, vehicles, port/facility parking areas and port personnel

Vessel-related Indicators/Activities:

- Recovering or tossing unusual items into or onto the waterway or shoreline.
- Unattended vessels.
- Suspicious signaling between boats and/or vessels.
- Unusual diving activity.
- Unusual number of people onboard vessels.
- Unauthorized or unusual boating activities.
- Disturbed fencing or lighting on port or facility.
- Suspicious transfer of items between ships and/or boats or between ship and shore.
- Unauthorized vessels observed near industrial facilities such as power plants, oil refineries, chemical, and water intake facilities.
- Unauthorized vessels observed near military bases, government facilities, and/or security zones on or near the port.
- Vessels operating or anchoring in unauthorized areas or areas that typically do not have such activity and unattended vessels.

Note: There may be a legitimate and lawful reason why these indicators are observed. Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent. We are asking you to determine when that is *not* the case so that the circumstances may 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. *It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different does not mean that he or she is suspicious.*

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- ✓ **Require valid ID from all employees, customers, and visitors to ports and facilities.**
- ✓ **Talk to people, ask questions, listen to answers, and document responses.**
- ✓ **Watch for people and actions that are out of place.**
- ✓ **Photograph suspicious people, and/or vehicles/vessels if possible.**
- ✓ **Report suspicious incidents to port police and/or local 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.

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