

Report suspicious activity.
Call Ohio Homeland Security:
1-877-OHS-INTEL
1-877-647-4683
For emergency, call **9-1-1**.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, many federal, state, and local agencies initiated efforts to improve information sharing and intelligence gathering. Since that time, all 50 states and over 20 separate metropolitan areas have established state or local fusion centers to partner with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) nationwide.

Fusion centers are uniquely situated to provide the local implications of national intelligence to front-line law enforcement, public safety, emergency response, public health, infrastructure protection, and private sector security partners. Fusion centers also provide interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to decision-makers at all levels of government. Ohio is fortunate to have three federally recognized fusion centers in our state. These centers receive, analyze and disseminate information from a multitude of sources in order to prevent terrorism and other crimes. The primary statewide center in Ohio is Ohio Homeland Security's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC). Additionally, there are two regional centers: the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center (NEORFC) and the Regional Information Operations Center in Hamilton County. These centers work together to create a streamlined information sharing system for Ohio's first

responders. In order to be successful, fusion centers rely on every citizen to report suspicious activity.

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if you
SEE
something
SAY
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Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) are one of our best defenses against terrorist threats and our greatest resource to building resilience. Every day, members of the public work with law enforcement officers to help keep our communities safe by reporting activities that are out of the ordinary and suspicious. It is critical that law enforcement officers at all levels of government – state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal – observe suspicious behaviors or receive reports from concerned civilians, private security, and other government agencies. These reports of suspicious activity play a vital role in countering terrorism and crime as they contribute to 9 out of every 10 arrests that are made.

An aware and engaged public that understands what constitutes unusual and suspicious behavior is essential to protecting our communities from terrorist threats. For example, maybe you are at a high profile location or, perhaps a sporting event and you notice a person nearby taking several photos. While that is not unusual, you may also notice that the person is only taking photos of the locations of surveillance cameras, entrance crash barriers, and access control procedures. That type of activity would be unusual. The following are examples of other unusual activities that should cause a heightened sense of suspicion:

- Monitoring personnel or vehicles entering/leaving facilities or parking areas

- Burns on body, missing finger(s) or hand, bloody clothing, bleached body hair or bright colored stains on clothing; switch or wires concealed in hand, clothing, or backpack
- Unusual or prolonged interest in the following: security measures or personnel; security cameras; entry points and access controls; perimeter barriers (fences/walls); unattended train or bus
- Purposely placing objects (e.g., packages, luggage, vehicles) in sensitive or vulnerable areas to observe security responses
- Individuals or actions which are out of place for their surroundings (e.g., over or underdressed for the weather)
- Unusual, vague, or cryptic threats, warnings, or comments about harming others

Some of these activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine where there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined above are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

Citation: Bureau of Justice Assistance/FBI Joint Bulletin, "Communities Against Terrorism: Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Mass Transportation"

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Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

Important details to note regarding suspicious activity:

Location (address, intersection, or milepost):

Date and time:

Description of suspicious activity:

Number and description of individuals involved (gender, approximate age, physical description):

Description of any vehicles involved (type of vehicle, color, license plate number):

Direction of travel of any individuals or vehicles involved: