

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Home Improvement and Large Retail Stores

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Shoplifting or purchasing
  - Large quantity of ammunition, hydrogen peroxide, model aircraft fuel, or compressed fuels (e.g., propane).
  - Unusually large quantity of fertilizer type 34-0-0 or 32-2-0.
  - Large quantity of watches, electronic timers, or kitchen timers.
  - A combination of unusual items (e.g., sponges, candles, matches, bolt cutters).
  - Firearms and ammunition out of season.
  - Night-vision equipment and camouflage apparel.
  - Pipe (particularly in short lengths), end caps, and pipe nipples in the same transaction, particularly when vague about their use.
- Making suspicious inquiries about equipment (tank size, spray range).
- Using a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state or temporary license plate to transport combustible chemicals, fertilizers containing ammonium nitrate (particularly 34-0-0), or other materials.
- Asking about a particular fertilizer without a stated purpose or displaying no interest in alternative fertilizers.
- Refusing to complete appropriate paperwork for firearms purchases.
- Using cash for large transactions.
- Using a credit card in someone else's name.

*It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious.*

### What Should I Do?

#### **Be part of the solution.**

- ✓ Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- ✓ **If something seems wrong, notify 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.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must 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.