



FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Gun Shops and Gun Ranges

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Related to Individual Appearance, General Behavior, and Communications:

- Alter appearance from visit to visit (beard shaved off, hair color changed, etc.)
- Insistence on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s)
- Identification provided is inconsistent or suspect or demands identity "privacy"
- Customer travels illogical distance to purchase
- Customer travels illogical distance to participate at range, or location is illegal for group
- Nervous/suspicious behavior or evasive about group's purpose (ask other participants about group)
- Interest in learning offensive moves in a confined space
- Interest in learning the use of hidden weapons
- Individuals who together are interested in learning group tactics
- Participants making racist or extreme religious statements
- Unusual comments made regarding anti-US, radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings
- Demonstrate interest in uses that do not seem consistent with the intended use of the item being purchased
- Possess little knowledge of intended purchase items or items
- Make bulk purchases of items to include:
 - Weatherproofed ammunition or match containers
 - Night Vision Devices; weapon mounted lights
 - High capacity magazines
 - Bi-pods or tri-pods for rifles

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.

**FBI New Haven
Joint Terrorism Task Force
(203) 777-6311**

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- ✓ Require valid ID from all new customers.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ Report any missing or stolen fuel, vehicles, or other equipment to law enforcement authorities.
- ✓ 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.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-MU-BX-K002, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Each indicator listed above, if by itself, may appear innocuous 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 considered in any law enforcement response or action.



FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Firearms Shops and Ranges

Note: The FBI does not intend to interfere with an individual's right to purchase a firearm or deny the Constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. There may be a perfectly legitimate reason why any of the indicators described below is present; we are counting on you to determine when that is *not* the case.

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Related to Individual Appearance, General Behavior, and Communications:

- Alters appearance from visit to visit (beard shaved off, hair color changed, etc.)
- Insists on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s)
- Identification provided is inconsistent or person demands identity privacy
- Customer travels illogical distance to purchase a firearm or train/practice at gun range
- Buying a large number of the same or similar model firearms
- Attempting to conceal conversations (beyond mere price negotiations)
- Acting evasively during conversations or while responding to questions
- Individuals who together are interested in learning group tactics
- Participants making racist or extreme religious statements
- Unusual comments made regarding anti-US, radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings
- Interested in using a firearm in a manner inconsistent with the type of weapon being purchased
- Purchasing firearms in a way revealing intent to circumvent legal restrictions
- Purchasing firearms in a manner meant to avoid the multiple sales reporting requirements
- Inquiring about the illegal conversion of firearms
- Expressing interest in the deadly force of the firearm beyond the interest typically shown by purchasers
- Expressing interest for ammunition which can penetrate law enforcement body armor
- Practice of kidnapping or ambush scenarios at ranges
- Referring to military/jihad training manuals in a threatening manner

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.

**FBI Salt Lake City
Joint Terrorism Task Force
(801) 579-1400**

What Should I Do?

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.

Ask questions about the purchase and the intended use of the firearm. By asking questions, you may prevent a potentially unlawful firearms transaction.

Exercise your right to decline a transaction if the customer appears nervous or uneasy, avoids eye contact, or if you are unsure whether the sale is legal.

If you have lawfully sold a firearm, ammunition, provided gunsmith services, or firearm training services, and you later uncover any unusual information about your customer, you are encouraged to contact your local Joint Terrorism Task Force.

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.

Each indicator listed above, is 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.