SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING

Information for Officers Reporting on Suspicious Activity

When completing a suspicious activity report (SAR), officers must follow appropriate laws, regulations, and policies, paying close attention to the following:

1. **The information for the SAR must be legally obtained.**
2. **The information submitted must be relevant to the identification of the subject or the subject's criminal conduct or activity.**
3. **The information gathered cannot be based solely on the political, religious, or social views, associations, or activities of any individual or any group.**

Race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity must not be considered as factors creating suspicion (but attributes may be documented in specific suspect descriptions for identification purposes).

What if I am dispatched to a call for police service and then once on scene discover SAR-related activity?

Handle the call as usual, including all reports that your agency requires. If you observe SAR activity not directly related to a reportable crime, please complete a separate report with the SAR information.

What information should I include when documenting a suspicious activity?

"Everything you can!"

It is important to include all information obtained so that the full context of the incident is apparent to anyone who reviews the report. This includes detailed descriptions of people, vehicles, facilities, etc. It is also important to include a complainant's information (name, phone number, etc.) if available.

The Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI) is a partnership of agencies at all levels that provides law enforcement with another tool to combat crime and terrorism. The NSI has established a national capacity for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing SARs.

A suspicious activity report (SAR) is used to document any reported or observed activity or any criminal act or attempted criminal act that an officer believes may reveal a nexus to foreign or domestic terrorism. The information reported in a SAR may be the result of observations or investigations by police officers or may be reported to them by private parties.

For more information: **http://nsi.ncirc.gov**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-D6-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Issued 09/10
Rev. 02/16

Suspicious Activity Reporting
Indicators and Behaviors

Behaviors	Descriptions
Defined Criminal Activity and Potential Terrorism Nexus Activity	
Breach/Attempted Intrusion	Unauthorized personnel attempting to enter or actually entering a restricted area, secured protected site, or nonpublic area. Impersonation of authorized personnel (e.g., police/security officers, janitor, or other personnel).
Misrepresentation	Presenting false information or misusing insignia, documents, and/or identification to misrepresent one's affiliation as a means of concealing possible illegal activity.
Theft/Loss/ Diversion	Stealing or diverting something associated with a facility/infrastructure or secured protected site (e.g., badges, uniforms, identification, emergency vehicles, technology, or documents {classified or unclassified}), which are proprietary to the facility/ infrastructure or secured protected site.
Sabotage/ Tampering/ Vandalism	Damaging, manipulating, defacing, or destroying part of a facility/infrastructure or secured protected site.
Cyberattack	Compromising or attempting to compromise or disrupt an organization's information technology infrastructure.
Expressed or Implied Threat	Communicating a spoken or written threat to commit a crime that will result in death or bodily injury to another person or persons or to damage or compromise a facility/ infrastructure or secured protected site.
Aviation Activity	Learning to operate, or operating an aircraft, or interfering with the operation of an aircraft in a manner that poses a threat of harm to people or property and that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person. Such activity may or may not be a violation of Federal Aviation Regulations.
Potential Criminal or Non-Criminal Activities Requiring Additional Information During the Investigation or Fact Gathering ***Note: When the behavior does not involve inherently criminal behavior and may involve constitutionally protected activity, the law enforcement agency will carefully assess the information and gather as much information as possible (including additional facts or circumstances indicating that the behavior is suspicious), before taking any action. The agency will then document and validate the information as being reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning associated with terrorism or other criminal activity and share it with other law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.***	
Eliciting Information	Questioning individuals or otherwise soliciting information at a level beyond mere curiosity about a public or private event or particular facets of a facility's or building's purpose, operations, security procedures, etc., in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Testing or Probing of Security	Deliberate interactions with, or challenges to, installations, personnel, or systems that reveal physical, personnel, or cybersecurity capabilities in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Recruiting/ Financing	Providing direct financial support to operations teams and contacts or building operations teams and contacts; compiling personnel data, banking data, or travel data in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Photography	Taking pictures or video of persons, facilities, buildings, or infrastructure in an unusual or surreptitious manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person. Examples include taking pictures or video of infrequently used access points, the superstructure of a bridge, personnel performing security functions (e.g., patrols, badge/vehicle checking), security-related equipment (e.g., perimeter fencing, security cameras), etc.
Observation/ Surveillance	Demonstrating unusual or prolonged interest in facilities, buildings, or infrastructure beyond mere casual (e.g., tourists) or professional (e.g., engineers) interest and in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person. Examples include observation through binoculars, taking notes, attempting to mark off or measure distances, etc.
Materials Acquisition/ Storage	Acquisition and/or storage of unusual quantities of materials such as cell phones, pagers, radio control toy servos or controllers; fuel, chemicals, or toxic materials; and timers or other triggering devices, in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Acquisition of Expertise	Attempts to obtain or conduct training or otherwise obtain knowledge or skills in security concepts, military weapons or tactics, or other unusual capabilities in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Weapons Collection/ Discovery	Collection or discovery of unusual amounts or types of weapons, including explosives, chemicals, and other destructive materials, or evidence, detonations or other residue, wounds, or chemical burns, that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.
Sector-Specific Incident	Actions associated with a characteristic of unique concern to specific sectors (e.g., the public health sector), with regard to their personnel, facilities, systems, or functions in a manner that would arouse suspicion of terrorism or other criminality in a reasonable person.