



# SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING

## Private Sector Partners and the Communities They Serve

**Private sector partners** include—but are not limited to—businesses, health care professionals, airports, colleges and universities, entertainment venues, maritime professionals, security officers, transportation entities, commercial facilities, first responders, retail professionals, industrial and chemical facilities, and hotel staff members.

### Report Suspicious Activity

Suspicious activity is defined as “observed behavior reasonably indicative of preoperational planning associated with terrorism or other criminal activity.” The primary purpose of a suspicious activity report (SAR) is to provide law enforcement with significant leads for further investigation and to help prevent crime, including terrorism. You play an important role in protecting your community because law enforcement agencies and fusion centers across the nation depend on private sector partners to be alert to and report suspicious activities that may occur at or near their businesses, facilities, or property. The suspicious activity information that you report could aid in the detection and disruption of a terrorist plot or in the identification of criminal activity in your community.

### How do I report suspicious activity?

If you observe suspicious activity, you are encouraged to report that information directly to your local law enforcement agency. Even though your profession or day-to-day duties may provide for unique opportunities to observe suspicious activity, you are not empowered to act as a law enforcement officer. Report only what you observe, and follow your organization’s policies and protocols; do not take additional actions outside the scope of your normal duties.

### What information should I include when reporting a suspicious activity? “Everything you can!”

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including:

- Who or what you saw
- Where it occurred
- When you saw it
- Why it is suspicious

### If there is an emergency, call 9–1–1.

It is important to include all available information 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.

For more information: <http://nsi.ncirc.gov>

To contact the NSI: [nsiinformation@ncirc.gov](mailto:nsiinformation@ncirc.gov)

# SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING Indicators and Behaviors



## Behaviors

## Descriptions

### Defined Criminal Activity and Potential Terrorism Nexus Activity

<b>Breach/Attempted Intrusion</b>	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).
<b>Misrepresentation</b>	Presenting false information or misusing insignia, documents, and/or identification to misrepresent one's affiliation as a means of concealing possible illegal activity.
<b>Theft/Loss/ Diversion</b>	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.
<b>Sabotage/ Tampering/ Vandalism</b>	Damaging, manipulating, defacing, or destroying part of a facility/infrastructure or secured protected site.
<b>Cyberattack</b>	Compromising or attempting to compromise or disrupt an organization's information technology infrastructure.
<b>Expressed or Implied Threat</b>	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.
<b>Aviation Activity</b>	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.*

<b>Eliciting Information</b>	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.
<b>Testing or Probing of Security</b>	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.
<b>Recruiting/ Financing</b>	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.
<b>Photography</b>	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.
<b>Observation/ Surveillance</b>	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.
<b>Materials Acquisition/ Storage</b>	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.
<b>Acquisition of Expertise</b>	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.
<b>Weapons Collection/ Discovery</b>	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.
<b>Sector-Specific Incident</b>	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.