

# Homeland Security

## ***Terrorism Threats:***

### ***What to watch for***

#### **Reporting threats**

is an important part of homeland security.

#### **Terrorists**

try to promote their beliefs by:

- threatening and committing violence
- disrupting daily life
- creating uncertainty, panic and fear

#### **Our government**

is working hard to defend our homeland by preventing and responding to terrorism threats.

#### **You can help**

Through vigilance and common sense, you can make a difference-by reporting suspicious activities and materials to the proper authorities.

#### **Awareness and reason**

**are your best defenses against terrorism threats.**

#### **Be sensitive to your surroundings.**

Calmly take in what is happening, who is there, and anything that seems out of place.

#### **Know and follow all security procedures.**

For example, check the identity of visitors to your work place.

Understand:

- what precautions to take for the type of work you do
- how to report anything suspicious

#### **Recognize potential targets.**

Be alert in your community- or wherever you might be.

#### **Balance Vigilance with respect for others' rights.**

People of all cultures, religions and ethnic groups deserve respect.

#### **Use caution to protect your safety.**

Report you observations with out drawing a suspect's attention.

#### **Targets of terrorism**

**may include:**

#### **Symbols**

Of a nation, city or institution, such as:

- government buildings
- financial districts
- major monuments
- tourist attractions
- other landmarks

#### **Utilities**

-power plants, water supplies, etc.

#### **Transportation systems**

For example:

- hospitals
- police stations
- fire stations
- Military bases.

#### **Special events facilities**

-such as indoor arenas and stadiums.

#### **Communications systems**

-for example, phone services, computer networks and mail delivery services.

#### **Be aware**

of strange behavior-but don't take matters into your own hands. Alert your supervisor, or the police or sheriff at once if a person:

**Seems to be hiding something**-such as a package or weapon.

**Tries to enter a facility**

## **Or use a vehicle without the required credentials.**

### **Seeks access**

To restricted areas or supplies. For example:

- water wells at food processing plants
- municipal reservoirs
- chemicals, fertilizers or other hazardous materials.

### **Hangs around a facility**

-or drives past it again and again.

### **Leaves a possession**

-such as a briefcase, suitcase or package-in a place that might be a target.

### **Provide as many details as you can**

-for example, the person's gender, build, estimated age, clothing and directions of travel.

## **Spotting strange letters and packages**

### **Be suspicious**

if an envelope or package:

- has no return address or one that makes no sense
- is supposedly from a business, but is address by hand
- is unexpected-especially if it arrived from abroad or by special delivery
- has excessive postage
- has common words misspelled
- smells odd
- is unevenly shaped or unusually heavy for its size
- shows signs of leaks or stains
- has wires sticking out
- makes a ticking, buzzing or sloshing noise.

### **Remain calm**

-remember that suspicious mail may be a hoax. To be safe:

- Do not open or shake the item.
- Isolate the item in a sealed plastic bag or other container. If a container is not available, cover the item with paper, clothing or an empty trash can.
- Call the police or sheriff.

### **If an opened item contains a powder or chemical,**

leave the item in its place-do not move it or bring it to show others.

- Leave the immediate area.
- Do not touch your mouth or face.
- Make sure all who have touched the item wash their hands with soap and water
- Call the police or sheriff

### **If you think an item contains a bomb,**

Evacuate the building at once.

- Do not use a radio or cell phone near the item.
- Call the police or sheriff

### **For more information,**

contact:

- your local or state department of public health
- Centers for Disease Control Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Site  
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation  
<http://www.fbi.gov/>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency <http://www.fema.gov/>
- Office of Homeland Security  
[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

***Trust your instincts-and take steps to stay safe and calm.***

The publisher has taken care in the preparation of this information, it does not necessarily describe particular situations you may encounter. You should ask a qualified expert or professional for advice about your particular situation.

Information taken from pamphlets provided by: Connecticut Clearinghouse (A library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness) (800) 232-4424 <http://www.ctclearinghouse.org/>