

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Storage Facilities

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Failing to provide complete personal information when completing rental paperwork.
- Using cash to pay rental fees in advance.
- Failing to pay rent for a storage unit in a timely manner.
- Using a credit card in someone else's name.
- Inquiring about security and surveillance equipment utilized at the storage facility.
- Placing unusual items in storage units or facility dumpsters
  - Fertilizer or agricultural products.
  - Chemicals or chemical containers.
  - Fuel or fuel containers.
  - Weapons and ammunition.
  - Explosives.
- Disposing of tools or protective gloves, masks, or clothing.

- Discarding clothing or shoes in new condition.
- Entering and leaving storage facility at unusual times.
- Avoiding contact with rental facility personnel.
- Accessing the facility an unusual number of times.
- Requesting deliveries of chemicals and other items made directly to a storage unit.
- Leaving burn marks or discoloration on the walls or door of a storage unit.
- Storing items that emit unusual odors or leak liquids.

Office of the Sheriff, Queen Anne's County

Sheriff Gary Hofmann

505 Railroad Avenue Centreville, Md. 21617

(410) 758-0770

### What Should I Do?

#### Know your customers.

- Require valid ID from all new customers.
- 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.**

**Agency Point of Contact:**  
**Lt. Mark A. Meil**  
**(410) 758-0770 Ext# 1235**

## Help Protect Your Community

Terrorism may be national or international in scope, but terrorist incidents occur locally and are preceded by a number of pre-incident activities. Individuals in the community are key to identifying these pre-incident activities. By learning what to look for, **you** can aid law enforcement officials in protecting the homeland.

Your knowledge of the storage facility industry can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In this arena, **you** are best informed about what constitutes suspicious activity.

By being aware of what to look for and knowing how to report suspicious behavior, **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.

## Be Part of the Solution

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. Instead, focus on behavior and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation and that appear to be suspicious.

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. 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.



# Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Storage Facilities



This project was supported by Grant No. 2008-DD-BX-0393 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.