# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Shopping Malls and Centers

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?
- Efforts to surveil or “case” the shopping center (e.g., taking pictures, making videos, or drawing diagrams of the location).
- Unusual inquiries about security procedures.
- Tests of security responses.
- Extremist literature distributed at the mall or posted on public bulletin boards.
- Extremist graffiti spray-painted at the center.
- Vandalism accompanied by a message or claim.
- Threats to the mall with particular concern to those that are extremist in nature, very specific, or that mention a known terrorist group.
- Individual(s) with unseasonal bulky attire.
- Unattended packages, briefcases, satchels, or bags.
- Unattended, unfamiliar delivery vehicles in loading zones or in front of store entrances.
- Thefts of official vehicles, uniforms, identification, and access cards.
- Attempts to access restricted areas, including the roof, hallways, and electrical rooms.
- Extremist attacks on other malls, especially those with similar tenants.
- Loitering, vandalism, or unusual activities around mall tenants who may be targets of extremists
  - Vendors that sell fur products.
  - Pet stores, outlets, or special events that feature live animals.
  - Tenants with political or religious displays.
  - Abortion clinics.
  - Laboratories that engage in animal testing.
  - Government offices.
  - Military recruiting centers.
  - Businesses that have been picketed or protested, threatened, or attacked at any of their branches or stores.
  - Outlets that may draw the attention of extremists (e.g., radical bookstores, weapons dealers, campaign offices, and activist group centers).

*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.*

### What Should I Do?
- Establish security procedures and a threat alert system, including a go-to person or telephone number for mall tenants to report suspicious activity.
- Establish terrorism training programs for security staff.
- Maintain an open line of communication with local law enforcement.
- Know the delivery vehicles and staff who are routinely on the property.
- Install security cameras around the property and facility.
- Inform tenants and local law enforcement if there is a concern about a special event that is to be held at the mall.
- Maintain close liaison with tenants who might be logical terrorist targets.
- Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- Be aware of protests or demonstrations conducted at the mall.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, items, and/or vehicles.
- 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.