



Terrorism awareness

Terrorism has been around since the beginning of human history, and has posed a threat to nations and the security of residents. These threats have evolved and changed as time passes, but the results remain the same, destruction of property, illness, displaced residents, economic loss and a general fear of what will happen next. The security of Pennsylvania depends in great part on resident involvement. Because after all, who is more vested in the wellbeing and safety of our state than the people who live here? Therefore you as the residents of Pennsylvania are encouraged to look for and report signs of terroristic/suspicious activity.

Know the Red Flags

Terrorists are trained to blend into their surroundings and are not always easily spotted. But there are some activities that may raise suspicion. The “See Something, Say Something” motto has been contributed to prevented planned attacks in the past. So if some activities that you observe raise suspicion, please alert your closest law enforcement personnel.

- **Surveillance:** If you observe someone closely watching an area over an extended period of time, and may not have a reason to be there, report it to the police. Most terrorists conduct training, surveillance, and dry runs prior to committing a terroristic act.
- **Suspicious Questioning:** Terrorists may attempt to gain information about operations, staffing, and security.
- **Tests of Security:** Leaving backpacks, bags or boxes unattended and gaging reaction times.
- **Acquiring supplies:** Stealing or buying uniforms, badges or credentials in order to impersonate official personnel. Purchases of large amounts of one time use cell phones.
- **Dry runs:** Rehearsals to ensure their plans run smoothly. An example might include putting people into position and walking through the steps of action.
- **Large Transactions:** Unusually large cash transactions or buying large amounts of gift cards. Terrorists will attempt to raise, transfer, and spend money in ways that are untraceable or will not attract attention.

Suspicious activity is often recalled after an event. We must train ourselves to be on the lookout for things that are out of the ordinary and arouse suspicions.

What to do if you Spot Suspicious Terrorist Activity

Take note of the details so that they can be accurately recalled to law enforcement. Remember SALUTE.

S—Size (The number of people, gender, ages, and physical descriptions)

A—Activity (Describe what they are doing)

L—Location (Provide exact location)

U—Uniform (What are they wearing, including shoes)

T—Time (Date, time, and duration of activity)

E—Equipment (Describe vehicle make, color, etc., license plate, camera, guns, etc.)

Recognize the difference between normal and abnormal behavior. Stay alert in your daily travels and get to know:

- Who your neighbors are
- What cars are normally in your neighborhood
- Who regularly makes deliveries at work and in your neighborhood

Staying alert is **NOT** about becoming paranoid. Staying alert is being aware of one’s surroundings.



What can you do to Prepare?

1. **Create an emergency communications plan**—Choose an out-of-town contact your family will call or e-mail to check on each other should a disaster occur. The selected contact should live far enough away that they would unlikely be affected by the same event. They should know that they are the chosen contact. Leave these contact numbers at your children's schools and at your workplace.
2. **Establish a meeting place**—Having a predetermined meeting place away from your home will save time and minimize confusion should your home be affected or evacuated. Be sure to include any pets in these plans.
3. **Assemble a disaster supplies kit**— Prepare a disaster supplies kit in an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag. Include special needs items for any member of you household (infant formula or items for people with disabilities), first aid supplies, a change of clothing, a sleeping bag, battery powered radio with extra batteries, food, bottled water and tools. It is also a good idea to include some cash and copies of important family documents.
4. **Check on the school emergency plan of any children you may have**—You need to know if they will keep children at school until a parent can pick them up or send them home on their own. Be sure the school has updated information on how to contact you.

If a Disaster Strikes

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials.
- Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.
- If a disaster occurs near you, check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- If the disaster occurs near your home while you are there, check for damage using a flashlight. Do not light candles or turn on electrical switches. Check for fires, or other household hazards.
- Shut off any damaged utilities.
- Confine or secure your pets.
- Call your family contact—do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.



Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.pema.pa.gov>

ReadyPA: www.readypa.org

Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner: <http://www.osfc.pa.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.ready.gov

FEMA Documents Library: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/22187>

American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare>

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.gov

Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-sav-something>

