

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Dive/Boat Shops

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

#### Suspicious People:

- New customer who is reluctant to provide complete personal information.
- Customer who has not taken a safety course or does not have a certification card.
- Small groups of foreign individuals asking for scuba certification lessons “quickly.”
- An inexperienced diver trying to dive alone.

#### Suspicious Activities:

- Using cash for large transactions or a credit card in someone else’s name.
- Renting watercraft for an extended period.
- Purchasing more than one motorized underwater propelling device.
- Exhibiting unusual behavior regarding dive tanks.
- Wanting to dive in locations not normally associated with diving.
- Claiming to be an experienced boater/diver but
  - Exhibiting unfamiliarity with common terminology.
  - Requiring instruction on operating watercraft and/or diving equipment.
  - Unable to support the claim with a diving logbook.
- During training
  - Appearing uninterested in safety rules or sacrificing safety to complete training faster.
  - Displaying aggressive desire to get to a specific location or to the next stage of a class.
  - Trying to redirect basic lessons towards a specific or an advanced topic.
  - Asking about technical or specialty training (e.g., enclosed spaces, night diving, underwater navigation, underwater welding, mixed gas diving) without being able to explain their objective.
- Possessing
  - Containers unrelated to normal water sports activities.
  - Maps designating structures unrelated to water sports activities.
  - Forged or altered identification.
- Acting secretive or exhibiting guarded behavior (discouraging communication and/or observation of activities).
- Inquiring about
  - Local dams or companies along waterways.
  - “Rebreathing” equipment or certification to utilize rebreathing equipment (very costly) for extremely deep dives/extended dive times.

*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?

#### Be part of the solution.

- ✓ Require valid ID from all new customers.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ 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.

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.