



HARDWARE STORES

BusinessSafe is based on the idea that certain businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain materials, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone, each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information may possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Hardware Stores, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- A request by an unknown individual to rent specialized power saws or gas torches capable of cutting thick steel cables typical of those used to support super-structures.
- An attempt to buy heavy-duty construction tools by someone who does not display knowledge or skill in the correct use of such equipment.
- The loss or theft of heavy-duty construction grade power equipment from your inventory.
- Loss or theft of any materials capable of producing explosive devices.
- Any suspicious inquiries into the use or toxicity of pesticides and other chemical agents for other than its intended purpose.

- Any request for equipment or tools used in the spraying or release of pesticides and other chemical agents from someone who does not display an apparent knowledge of such equipment.
- Request to ship pesticides to an area not usually associated with the use of pesticides.
- The purchase of materials that may potentially be utilized in bomb making (i.e. metal objects convertible to shrapnel, wiring, fertilizer, timers.)

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern, or set of circumstances is unusual.

Please remember that the conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Suspicious incidents should be reported immediately to your local law enforcement agency, Crime Stoppers, or your regional FDLE office. You may also email a tip regarding a suspicious incident utilizing the link on the [BusinessSafe homepage](#).

For all emergencies, call “911.”