



MARINAS, BOAT RENTALS, SALES, STORAGE, AND WATERCRAFT MAINTENANCE

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 Marinas, Boat Rentals Sales, Storage and Watercraft Maintenance, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Moored boats for which the owner or lessee cannot be contacted during an extended period of time.
- Boats appearing unusually weighed down.
- Full payment by cash for the purchase of an expensive boat or several small boats, personal watercraft, outboard engines, gasoline tanks.
- Purchase of a boat for a purported reason not typically compatible with the manufacturer's boat design (i.e., using a speedboat for fishing expeditions).

- Purchasing inquiries related to small commercial or fishing vessels by individuals who seem to lack industry knowledge, credentials or trade experience.
- Dockside activity at unusual times (i.e., possible loading of suspicious materials under the cover of darkness or scuba trips conducted at night).
- Requests for private charter tours by individuals who display an unusual interest in non-tourist attractions (i.e., coastal oil refineries, the under girding and buttresses of bridges, etc.).
- Individuals who opt to lease dock space under a short-term or per diem rate and payment by cash, foregoing the considerably less expensive long-term lease selected by most customers, despite leaving a vessel moored for a prolonged period of time.
- Interest in the precise timing of ferry routes (i.e., observing someone using a stopwatch while studying a passing ferry).
- Possible surveillance (i.e., use of binoculars) of maritime activity such as the movement of barges.
- Individual purchases of paint or decals similar to those found on local security or port services vessels by those without authority to do so, or the theft of same.
- Discovery of painting patterns fashioned to resemble those of local security or port services vessels.
- Theft or purchasing attempts of harbor security or port services uniforms, access badges, or related equipment.
- Maintenance requests that involve unusual structural modifications (i.e., removal of seating, important fishing-related equipment, etc.) especially those that seem to reduce the ability of the vessel to perform its normally expected role.
- Demands to create additional voids or storage areas below decks, to dramatically increase fuel capacity or vessel speed, or to place vertical metal plates (or other possible shrapnel producing materials) below decks or near the bow.

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.”