



Office of the Sheriff County of Madison



John E. Ball, Undersheriff

Fall 2017

Dear Community Partner:

Early recognition and reporting of suspicious activity is the first line of defense against individuals who intend on harming New York citizens. State law enforcement continues to communicate with a wide range of corporations, businesses and industries statewide as part of **Operation Safeguard**.

To support this program, the Madison County Sheriff's Office has outlined a number of tips that can help you, your employees, or members of your respective professional association spot suspicious activity and report to law enforcement.

There is concern that individuals seeking to commit acts of terrorism, while portraying themselves as legitimate customers, may be attempting to purchase or lease certain materials or equipment or undergo formalized training to acquire certain skills or licenses. There is also a concern that individuals could also attempt to steal certain types of vehicles, equipment or materials from the inventory of legitimate businesses. Whatever the method used by these individuals, the acquired items and/or skills could then be used to facilitate an act of terrorism. These individuals could clearly, and understandably, utilize local resources outside of the large metropolitan areas of our State, and that makes Madison County a prime area of opportunity. You know your business and daily environment, better than anyone. If something is out of place, or "odd", you'll know it. When this happens, say something.

Operation Safeguard encourages you or your employees to contact the New York State Terrorism Tips Line if you see any suspicious or unusual activity associated with your normal customer interactions or usual pattern of personal business. Remember, if you "**See Something, Say Something**" and call the New York State toll-free tips line at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697). You may also report any suspicious activity 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling the Madison County 911 Center at (315) 366-2311. You can now also "**See Something, Send Something**", which allows anyone to capture suspicious activity as a photo or written note, and send the information to the New York State Intelligence Center. From there, the tip will be reviewed and if relevant, sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The application, which can be downloaded for free for iPhone and Android phone users, also includes information on what to look for and when to report suspicious activity. Download the app at www.ny.gov/seesendNY.

What Things Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.

ACCOUNTABILITY

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

P.O. Box 16, WAMPSVILLE, NEW YORK 13163
PH: 315-366-2318 FAX: 315-366-2286 <http://madisoncountysheriff.us>

- 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.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities, security procedures or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to acquire supplies: explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals or other materials to use in an attack; or official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification to gain entry to key facilities.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).
- Using cash for large transactions or personal credit card in someone else's name.
- Attempts to access restricted areas or to penetrate/test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near key facility.
- Acting nervous, impatient or suspicious when acquiring materials, or trying to gain information or access to buildings.

Describing Suspicious Behavior:

WHO did you observe?

WHAT did you see? Be Specific.

WHERE did you see it?

WHEN did you see it?

WHY is it suspicious?

- Vehicle description – make/model/color?
- Plate Number?
- Other occupants?
- Which way did they go if they departed?

If you observe suspicious activity, always remember these important tips:

- **DO NOT** take direct action
- **DO NOT** confront the individual
- **DO NOT** reveal your suspicions
- **DO** record as many details as possible
- **DO** notify the appropriate authorities as soon as possible

Alone each indicator can result from legitimate activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information could suggest a terrorist threat. If it doesn't feel or look right, don't second guess your gut feelings – make the call. Your impressions and assessment, based upon your professional business experience, are valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a pattern or set of circumstances is unusual. You, or your employees, know your operations – if it doesn't look or feel right – report it. Go with your gut feeling.

Suspicious activity does not have to be criminal to be reported. All calls are toll-free and are strictly confidential, unless you want to speak to a member of law enforcement.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this, and we do ask for your support by sharing this information with your employees, or anyone else you feel may benefit from it. If I, or this office, can do anything to support your efforts, or to answer any questions, please feel free to call me at (315) 366-2318.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

John E. Ball
Madison County Undersheriff