

Crime Prevention & Information Center



Potential Indicators of Suspicious and/or Criminal Activities Related to Suicide Bombers

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

The Chicago Police Department (CPD), the CPD Crime Prevention & Information Center (CPIC), along with our federal law enforcement partners have no indication of any specific or credible threats to the City of Chicago. This product informs our private sector partners of preoperational indicators associated with actions or behaviors that are suspicious and/or criminal and are possibly related to terrorism.

On 22 May 2017, a suspected terrorist incident occurred at the conclusion of a concert at Manchester Arena located in Manchester, England. Greater Manchester Police confirm at least 22 fatalities and 59 injuries. Greater Manchester Police confirmed the attacker died at the scene and was believed to be carrying an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Potential Indicators of Observation/Surveillance

- Unusual, repeated, or prolonged observation of facility (for example, with binoculars or video cameras).
- Taking notes or measurements, counting paces, sketching floor plans, maps, or diagrams.
- Scrutinizing security personnel, shift changes, or facility activities.
- Extended loitering without explanation, particularly in concealed locations with optimal visibility of potential targets.

Potential Physical Indicators of Suicide Bombers

- Baggy, heavy, or unseasonable clothing.
- Profuse sweating.
- Visible wires or “pull cord” hanging from clothing.
- Hands kept concealed in pockets or that appear may be gripping a potential switch.
- Unnatural gait or posture; lack of mobility based on where bomb is placed.
- Presence of strong chemical odors.

Potential Behavioral Indicators of Suicide Bombers

- Avoidance of law enforcement, security personnel, or surveillance equipment.
- Displaying nervous, anxious, or irritable behavior, or unusually calm and detached.
- Walking deliberately toward a specific object or target, often pushing through a crowd or around barriers (may show a high degree of focus or intent, especially if the target is in sight).
- Behaviors or demeanor out of sync with surrounding people or elements.
- Backpacks, luggage, or packages held in an unusual or protective manner.
- Refusal to let others handle luggage, bags, or packages.
- Individuals perspiring.

Potential Bomb-Making Indicators

- Use of high concentrated hydrogen peroxide might leave white marks on perpetrator’s hands and arms or may turn hair blonde or orange.
- Burns on hands, arms, or face.
- Redness or irritation around eyes or nose.

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution

- ✓ Ensure all security personnel are aware of the indicators listed in this product.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles. Notify law enforcement.
- ✓ Review current security plans and procedures to ensure they are up-to-date.
- ✓ **If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities immediately by dialing 911.**

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 these activities may be constitutionally protected, and any determination of possible illicit intent should be supported by additional facts that justify reasonable suspicion. These activities are general in nature and any one may be insignificant on its own, but when observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors—particularly advocacy of violence—they may constitute a basis for reporting.

**If You See Something...Say Something...Immediately!
CALL 911**