

Terrorism Awareness for Citizens – City of Annapolis

The security of the City of Annapolis depends greatly upon citizen involvement. No Maryland law enforcement agency can effectively protect life and property without the support and cooperation of the citizens they serve. The Annapolis Police Department needs your help in countering terrorism. Much like our Neighborhood Watch program, we ask you to be our eyes and ears. Reporting of suspicious activity can help disrupt the terrorism planning cycle.

Terrorists are trained to “blend in” and assimilate to their surroundings. Most terrorist’s acts are well organized and well planned. Terrorists will conduct training, surveillance and “dry runs” prior to commission of a terrorist act. They like to strike at government and civilian targets in an effort to instill fear. Although it is the intent of the terrorist to install fear in you, it is **your** vigilance that the terrorist fears most.

Reports can be made anytime by dialing 9-1-1.

When recording the essential details utilize the following guidelines:

- ◆ **Who** did I observe?
- ◆ **What** specifically did I see?
- ◆ **Where** did I observe the specific behavior?
- ◆ **When** did I observe the specific behavior?
- ◆ **Why** do I think the behavior is suspicious?

There are three elements in reporting a description to the police:

- ◆ **Accuracy (most important)**
- ◆ **Speed**
- ◆ **Completeness**

Tips on Giving a Description

For a Person:

- ◆ Sex
- ◆ Race
- ◆ Age (approximate)
- ◆ Height (approximate)
- ◆ Weight (approximate, use 10lb. blocks)
- ◆ Build (medium, heavy set, thin, etc.)
- ◆ Hair (color, length, include facial hair)
- ◆ Complexion (light, dark, ruddy, olive, etc.)
- ◆ Eyes (color, glasses)
- ◆ Peculiarities (scars, tattoos, missing limbs, etc.)
- ◆ Clothing (from head to toe, style, defects)
- ◆ Weapons (if any)
- ◆ Method of escape (direction, vehicle, etc.)

For a Vehicle:

- ◆ Year, make, and model
- ◆ Body type (2 door, 4 door, van, SUV, etc.)
- ◆ Passengers (number of people in vehicle)
- ◆ **License Plate (most important)**
- ◆ Damage or anything unusual (logos, etc.)
- ◆ Color

We need you to:

- ◆ Remain alert and be aware of everyday activities in your neighborhood. Take notice of unusual behavior. Report any unattended backpacks, suitcases, or packages left in inappropriate locations.
- ◆ Encourage the involvement of family, friends, and neighbors.
- ◆ Take precautions when traveling. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended.
- ◆ Learn where emergency exits and stairways are located. Think about how to evacuate a building or congested public building in a hurry.
- ◆ Be aware of what is going on around you at home and while you are away.

Suspicious Activity

In the event you become aware of suspicious activity:

- ◆ **Do not** take direct action.
- ◆ **Do not** confront the individual; and
- ◆ **Do not** reveal your suspicions.

- ◆ **Do** record as many details as possible; and
- ◆ **Do** notify the appropriate authorities as soon as possible.

Become involved in Neighborhood Watch; Neighbors working together with police and other emergency personnel, observing and reporting incidents, conditions and crime in their neighborhoods.

Ways to Improve Observation Skills

- ◆ Employ good listening skills
- ◆ Do not let personal feelings interfere with the incident
- ◆ Look at the entire situation before making a judgment
- ◆ Watch for non-verbal communications signs
- ◆ Use feedback to obtain and verify information and observations
- ◆ Observe and Report
- ◆ Do not become personally involved

More Terrorism Links

- ◆ Shelter in Place from the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org)
- ◆ Maryland Emergency Management Agency (www.mema.state.md.us)
- ◆ Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov)
- ◆ Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) tips Line 1-800-492-TIPS (www.mcac-md.gov)
- ◆ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 410-265-8080 (www.fbi.gov)