

Situational Awareness: Reporting Suspicious Activity and Behavior

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Would you report this person?



Concerns

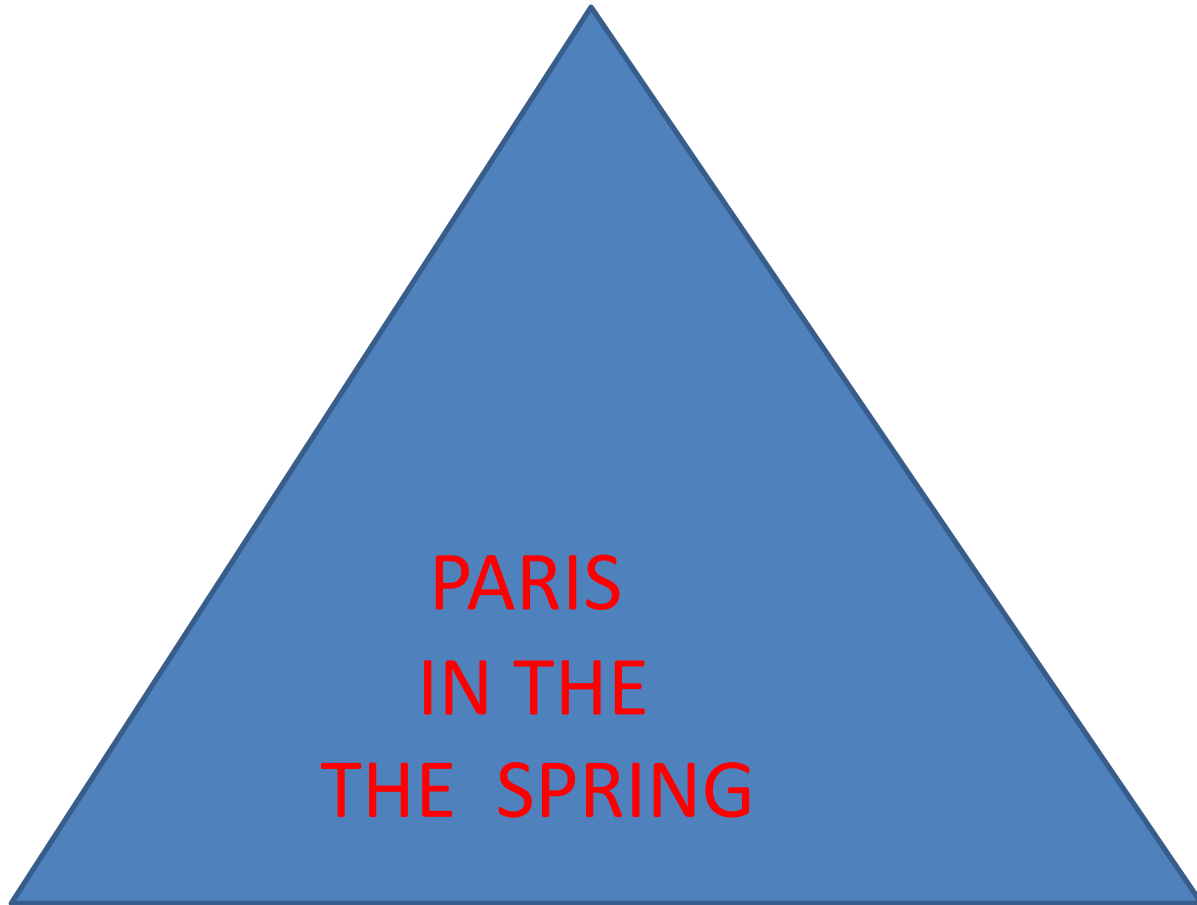
- Gun-free zones are attractive targets
- Inspire magazine: schools and large gatherings of unarmed people are attractive targets; how to make a propane bomb
- Active incidents, lethality and threats have increased; not just guns
- Vehicle-borne explosives and vehicle attacks
- Majority of AS events occur at businesses
- Hundreds of concerning behavior reports

Success relies on secure campuses

- Few cops/security around: can't see it all
- Empower yourself to play a key role in keeping your workplace safe
 - You can assist police (“When seconds count, the police arrive in minutes”.)
 - Report suspicious/concerning/unusual behavior
 - You can transform your location into a hard target

Awareness will keep you safer

Read this:



Observe/Report Concerning Behavior

An ordinary student?

Is this your Active Shooter? (Expect the Unexpected)



Be in Condition Yellow

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- When we see what we expect, we dismiss it as normal. Avoid uncritical complacency.
 - FedEx, Utility truck, Caterer, Landscaper
 - Police, fire, military uniforms
- Are these people doing any of the following?
 - Surveillance
 - Elicitation
 - Testing security
 - Acquiring resources
 - Rehearsal
 - Impersonation

Are there terrorists in Northern Virginia?

**9/11 HIJACKERS PRAYED 3 MILES FROM CAMPUS
19 NOVA STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR TERRORISM**

Indicators: potential terrorist activities

- Eliciting info
- Testing security
- Recruiting
- Observation/surveillance
- Materials acquisition and storage
- Weapons discovery
- Breach/attempted intrusion
- Misrepresentation
- Theft/loss/diversion
- Sabotage/tampering/vandalism
- Cyber attack
- Aviation activity
- Expressed/IMPLIED threat

Suspicious behavior factors

- Nervousness
- Sweating
- Patting self
- Hands in pocket
- Talking to oneself
- Favoring one side of body
- Taking photos
- Making drawings
- Loitering
- Reading, but not turning pages
- Clothing contradicts weather/circumstances
- Many/bulging pockets
- Concealed weapon?
- Abnormal cell phone use
- Diversions
 - Carrying groceries
 - Walking a pet
 - Pushing a carriage

Concerning behaviors

- Individuals typically do not just “snap”, but display indicators of potentially violent behavior over time. Often, these behaviors, if recognized, can be managed and treated.
- Signs of potentially violent behaviors (often considered by NOVA’s TAT) may include some of the following:
 - Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs
 - Unexplained increase in absenteeism, vague physical complaints
 - Noticeable decrease in attention to appearance and hygiene
 - Depression/ withdrawal
 - Resistance and overreaction to changes in policy and procedures
 - Repeated violations of company/school policies
 - Increased severe mood swings
 - Noticeably unstable, emotional responses
 - Explosive outburst of anger or rage without provocation
 - Suicidal; comments about “putting things in order”
 - Behavior which is suspect of paranoia “everybody is against me”
 - Increasingly talks of problems at home
 - Escalation of domestic problems in the workplace; talk of severe financial problems
 - Talk of previous incidents of violence
 - Empathy with individuals committing violence
 - Increase in unsolicited comments about firearms, other dangerous weapons and violent crimes

Potential targets/activities

“CARVER”

(Criticality, Accessibility, Recognizability, Vulnerability, Effect, Recuperability)

- Administration/Financial
- Employee concentrations (e.g., fire drill)
- Controversial exhibitions
- Sporting/entertainment venues
- Construction sites
- Control facilities (HVAC, computer)
- Laboratories (HAZMAT)
- Open house/Convocations
- Others?

Suspicious vehicles

- No parking zone
- Unattended (e.g., UPS truck – 3 hours)
- Duration
- Tinted windows
- Cluttered interior
- Hood up; flat tire
- Obscured or no license plate (crucial info)
- Bumper stickers
- Odors (e.g., fertilizer; diesel fuel)

VBIED indicators

- Sagging suspension
- Illegally parked near entrances/crowded access points
- Covered/tinted windows
- License plate altered or removed
- Odors of gas, propane, acids, chemicals
- Visible wires, switches, batteries, watches, cell phones, timers
- Cargo concealed with tarp or blanket
- Interior panels removed or out of place

Suspicious packages and letters

- Distorted or unintelligible handwriting
- Incorrect titles
- Cut and paste lettering
- No return address
- Excess weight or uneven weight distribution
- Common words misspelled
- Stains, odor, wires, or noise
- Special delivery
- Excessive tape

A Suspicious Package

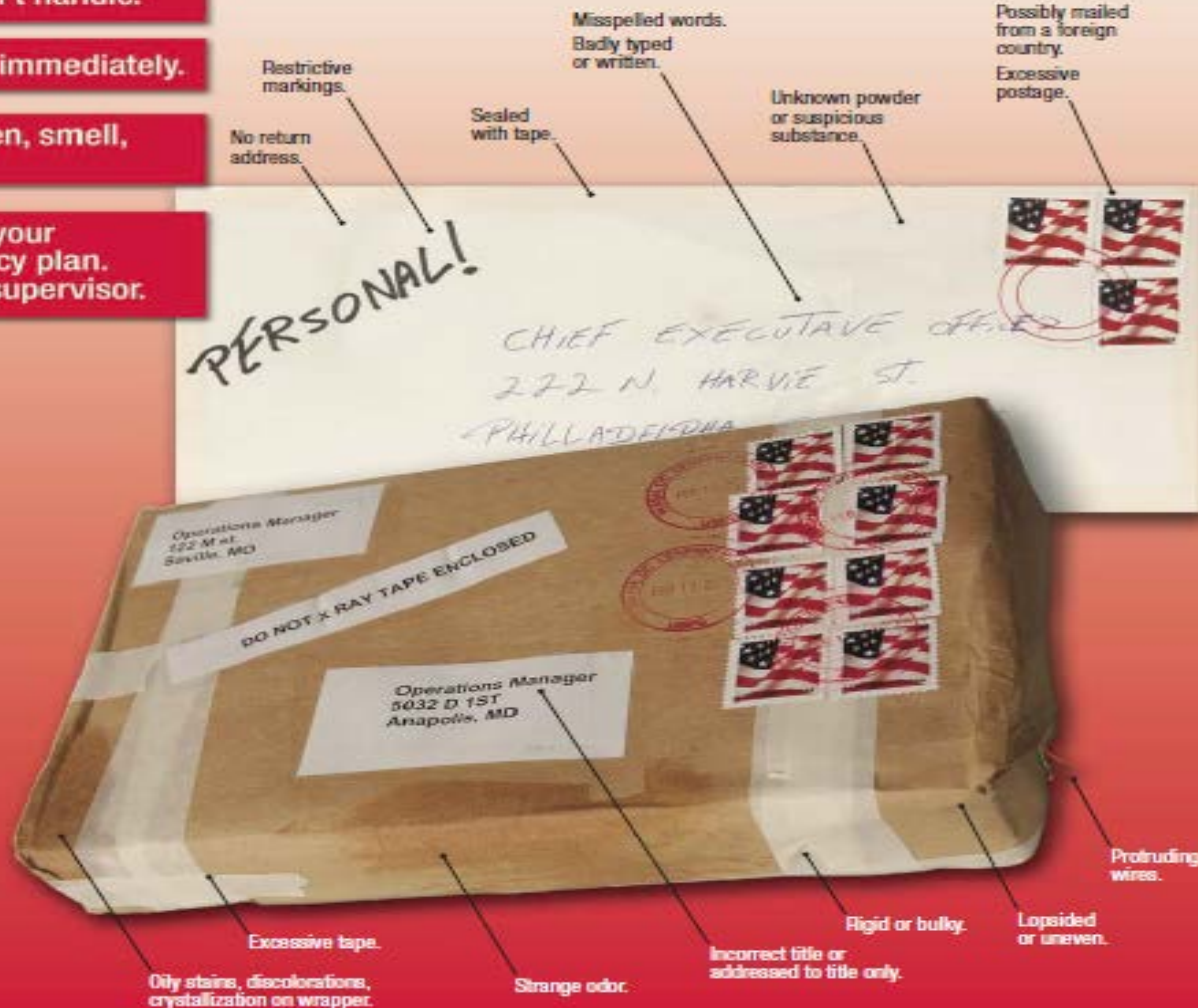
If you receive a suspicious letter or package:

- Stop. Don't handle.

- Isolate it immediately.

- Don't open, smell, or taste.

- Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.



Concealed weapons indicators

- Print
- Bulges
- Gait
- Security pat
- Sagging jacket
- One arm stationary

Obstacles to Reporting

- People are reluctant to:
 - Get involved
 - Report friends
 - Bother the police (fear of being wrong)
- Uncertain if a crime was witnessed
- Don't trust instincts
- Fear of retaliation
- 9-1-1 is scary; some international students are unaware
- Fear accusation of racism/profiling
- Fear of violating HIPPA, FERPA, etc. confidentiality laws
- Some fear police (cultural)
- Some disdain interacting with authority

Let's address these obstacles!

Fear of racism/profiling accusation

- *People are not suspicious; Behavior is suspicious*
- Race, gender, and ethnicity are incidental to the concerning behavior

- Dispatch will ask for appropriate identifying info

Examples:

- There is a large man wearing a hoodie and full-length raincoat. It's sunny and 95 degrees.
- There's a person photographing the parking garage.
- Someone is asking about the size of the police force.

Fear of violating HIPPA, FERPA, FOIA, etc.

- Safety overrides confidentiality
 - Exceptions allowed in above laws
- Title 22 provides exception for safety concern
- FERPA: *may* (not must) protect info
- Emphasize safety concern
 - I am reporting X because I have a safety concern...

Fear of Police Authority; Unwillingness to Interact with Police

- Newsletter
- New Student Orientations
- F-1 orientations
- Presentations and training
- Classroom instruction
- Patrol
- Support of clubs and organizations
- Community outreach

What you can do

- Expect the unexpected, especially from the familiar
- Meet and greet: invite police and share concerns
- Trust your instincts
- Do not cluster/avoid clusters
- Scan *entire* area: look outward, not only inward
- Think small (vehicle tag is more important than color)
- Anonymous reporting
- Use other reporting channels besides police dispatch
- Discuss with colleagues

An Integrated Community Approach: Everybody Has A Role

	Prevent/Deter	Respond	Mitigate	Recover
Police/security	Patrol, Investigate, Provide Info	Joint Operations	Solicit resources, Command	Investigate, Self-assessment
Administrators	Supportive Environment	Provide policy decisions	Solicit resources, Command	Reallocate resources
Emergency Management	Provide info, Drills	Engage	Command	Hot wash
Registrar	Monitor	Report		
Student services	Provide info, Monitor	Report		Support
Finance	Monitor	Provide resources		Reallocate

An Integrated Community Approach: Everybody Has A Role (cont.)

	Prevent/Deter	Respond	Mitigate	Recover
SAS/Title IX	Provide info	Investigate		Secure services
IT	Monitor, Support security	Report		
Parking	Monitor	Report	Control traffic	Control traffic
Facilities	Monitor	Report	Support security	Repair
Mental Health	Provide info	Secure services		Secure services
PIO			Provide info	Provide info

What to report

- Who is involved? (#s and descriptions?)
- What is the behavior?
- Where?
- When?
- How is it being done?
- Why? (motive?)
- Other information:
 - Weapons
 - Transportation assets
 - Direction of travel
 - Injuries

Summary

- The police are necessary but not sufficient for safety
- YOU can deter crime by making your facility a hard target
- Safety concern is the key reporting justification
- Report suspicious behavior, *not* people
 - Protects you
 - Protects your business
 - No liability
- Trust your “gift of fear”
- Tell someone
 - Anonymity can be protected, in most cases
 - Accommodations can be made
- Don’t fear being wrong or subject to criticism
- Personal safety is our common goal