



Potential Indicators of Suspicious Activity Related to Fireworks



Fireworks are a common component used in Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The FBI Kansas City Joint Terrorism Task Force is asking consumer fireworks retailers to be aware of this phenomenon and familiarize themselves with some possible indicators of suspicious activity. This list is not all inclusive, nor is it intended to limit the lawful conduct of innocent persons. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be considered in deciding whether to report suspicious activity.

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

People Who:

- Ask questions that do not seem relevant to the use of fireworks; asking about disassembly/modification of fireworks or about bulk reloadable shells without launching tubes.
- Seek technical expertise, such as details beyond the general inquiry about the amount of black powder or flash powder in a particular firework or explosives equivalence.
- Inquire about using fireworks to propel fragmentation.
- Express interest in "under the counter" commercial display fireworks or other illegal devices.
- Express interest in improvised explosives, flash powder, or other energetic pyrotechnic mixtures, or equipping improvised explosive devices with black powder from fireworks.
- Have injuries consistent with explosives experimentation such as missing hand/fingers, and conventional or chemical burns.
- Behave nervously or providing unusually vague answers about the reason for purchasing/using fireworks; shifting gaze, unusual activity near cameras, conspicuous disguise attempts
- Make suspicious comments regarding radical theology, anti-US sentiment etc.
- Purchase large quantities of sparklers (potential to assemble sparkler bombs).

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution:

- Preventing terrorism is a community effort which requires a strong relationship between law enforcement and the public.
- Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- Make note of suspicious statements, actions, and/or vehicles.
- **If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities immediately.**

Information that is helpful to investigators:

- Identification numbers (license, state identification, social security numbers, etc.)
- License plate numbers (include state)
- Credit card information
- A detailed physical description of the individual(s)

Please report suspicious activity to:
FBI Kansas City
Joint Terrorism Task Force
E-mail: kansas.city@ic.fbi.gov or (816)-512-8200