



VFC Operations

In February 2005, the Virginia Fusion Center (VFC) was created to improve the Commonwealth's preparedness against terrorist attacks. The VFC operates on a 24/7 basis and is staffed by personnel representing several state and federal agencies.

VFC Partnerships

The VFC is a partnership with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and has partnerships in the following areas:

- Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement
- Military Personnel
- Critical Infrastructure
- Emergency Response
- Homeland Security
- Private Industries
- Public

VFC Information Exchange

The exchange of information and resources from VFC partnerships is fundamental to providing a coordinated response to terrorism-related issues affecting the Commonwealth. Information received and generated by the VFC is used to:

- Prevent, Interdict or Respond to Terrorism and Criminal Activity
- Educate Homeland Security Officials
- Pursue and Apprehend Offenders

All law enforcement, homeland security agencies, private industries and the public are encouraged to report information that may help prevent terrorism and identify potential terrorists and criminals.

Information about unusual, suspicious and/or criminal activity should be reported to the Virginia Fusion Center on the toll free Terrorism Hotline.

VSP Terrorist Tip Hotline
1-877-4VA-TIPS

Reporting Suspicious Activity in Virginia



Virginia State Police
Virginia Fusion Center

Richmond, VA
877-4VA-TIPS

[http://www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/
index.shtm](http://www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/index.shtm)

24/7 Hotline: 877-4VA-TIPS

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Virginia State Police

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

7 Signs of Terrorism

Terrorism Defined

Terrorism can be described as politically motivated violence or threat of violence designed to coerce others into actions they would not otherwise undertake or to refrain from actions they desired to take. Terrorism is generally directed against civilian targets and is intended to produce effects beyond immediate physical damage, having long-term psychological repercussions, particularly fear, on a particular target audience.

Terrorist Planning Phases

Certain activities, especially those at or near sensitive facilities, including government, military or other high profile sites or places where large numbers of people congregate, may indicate terrorist planning phases. Suspicious activities of interest that should be reported to law enforcement are commonly referred to as the 7 Signs of Terrorism.

Surveillance

Elicitation

Tests of Security

Acquiring Supplies

Suspicious Persons

Dry Runs/Trial Runs

Deploying Assets

Surveillance

Recording or monitoring activities. May include drawing diagrams, note taking, use of cameras, binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices or possessing floor plans or blueprints of key facilities.

Elicitation

Attempts to obtain operation, security and personnel-related information regarding a key facility. May be made by mail, fax, e-mail, telephone or in person.

Tests of Security

Attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

Acquiring Supplies

Attempts to improperly acquire items that could be used in a terrorist act. May include the acquisition of explosives, weapons, harmful chemicals, flight manuals, law enforcement or military equipment, uniforms, identification badges or the equipment to manufacture false identification.

Suspicious Persons

Someone who does not appear to belong in a workplace, neighborhood or business establishment due to their behavior, including unusual questions or statements they make.

Dry Runs/Trial Runs

Behavior that appears to be preparation for a terrorist act without actually committing the act. Activity could include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

Deploying Assets

Placing people, equipment and supplies into position to commit the act. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

Reporting Suspicious Activity

Prompt and thorough reporting of suspicious activities may prevent a terrorist attack. When reporting suspicious activity, it is helpful to give the most accurate description possible of the situation, including:

- Brief Description of the Activity
- Date, Time and Location of the Activity
- Physical Identifiers of the Person(s) Observed
- Vehicle Descriptor Information
- Where Any Suspicious Persons May Have Gone
- Your Name and Contact Information

Tips for Reporting

Being aware of signs indicative of terrorist planning can aid law enforcement in the discovery of possible terrorist activity. If you believe you have information that would help authorities, you are encouraged to do the following:

- Call 911 for Life-Threatening Emergencies
- Call the Virginia Fusion Center on the 24/7 Toll Free Terrorism Hotline at 877-4VA-TIPS
- Submit information electronically at www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/index.shtm

Terrorism Resources

The general public is encouraged to take an active role in Virginia Homeland Security. To remain vigilant and alert regarding terrorism-related information, the public may access the Virginia Fusion Center Weekly Media Reports on the VFC website..

