



VITALS

For Medical Transport Professionals

A Weekly Safety Newsletter

Terrorist Attacks Don't Just Happen

There are always operational acts which precede a terrorist attack. Here is the **Terrorist Modus Operandi**:

Targeting-Terrorists carefully choose a target, weighing the probability of weapon access, numbers of casualties and political significance.

Casing- Terrorists study the target and approaches to the target and assess the situation until they have an intimate knowledge of all dangers and opportunities.

Surveillance- The terrorists want no surprises. Before an attack the watch on the target will likely be continuous.

Rehearsal- Terrorists don't have resources to waste. They usually practice before they act.

Attack Profile- Only after all the above is accomplished will a terrorist plan get underway, leading to the actual attack.

Attack- Terrorists would mount an attack every day if they could, but they cannot. They need to take the time and effort to assure a high probability of success. It is a serious mistake to think they are irrational. They are very intelligent.

Despite this thorough planning, there is a weakness. Everything has to go right for the terrorist. If he is "made," he will either delay or half his plans. The bottom line- we need to detect them in only one place or one part of their process to cause, at the very least, a disruption in their operation.



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Communicate!

Transportation professionals can observe things such as: trucks parked under bridges, routes that make no sense, abandoned rigs, frontline participants who don't really know their business, shipping practices that make no sense or any of a thousand items that an experienced professional is well suited to discern.

Report- Remembering "I TALK"

Call 911 if you have an emergency or see what appears to be an attack in progress. Remember the reporting format I-T-A-L-K

Identify- yourself and provide the receiving agency with your Confidential Highway Watch registered identification number (HWWID).

Time- provide the receiving agency with the exact time of your incident observation.

Activity- provide the receiving agency with a concise and accurate description of your observations, the activity you are seeing.

Location- provide the receiving agency with your physical location (You may choose to provide a GPS location, mile marker location, street address, or prominent terrain / structure feature).

Keep- attempt to keep observing without endangering your personal safety or that of your associates.

Helping Government Intelligence Agencies to "Connect The Dots"

It is important that information be transmitted into the information network of the federal government so it can be collated and compared with information from many sources of intelligence. Don't simply rely on local agencies to pass this information along for you.

The Department of Homeland Security encourages individuals to report information concerning suspicious activity with either terrorism or criminal potential to: The local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Office or to other appropriate authorities.

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