

# **Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Information Bulletin From the Division of Operations**

## **Information Bulletin: 16-02**

**March 7, 2016**

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**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Division Chief Steve Jones

**SUBJECT:** Suspicious Activity Reporting



MCFRS personnel sometimes encounter suspicious activity during the course of duties. As public safety officials, we are obligated to make notification to law enforcement if the activities can reasonably be considered suspicious or related to criminal or terrorist behaviors. This document discusses types of suspicious activity and how to make notifications.

### **Reporting Procedures:**

- Any activity that presents an immediate threat to life safety or property should be reported to law enforcement immediately (Appropriate police agency and MCFRS Fire & Explosive Investigations). This may be done via radio and/or calling 911 and ensuring that your Battalion Chief is notified
- If the observed behavior or material presents an immediate threat to life safety or property, a reasonable attempt should be made to safely maintain/secure the scene until the arrival of police. Examples include: the storage of large amounts of chemicals, improvised explosive devices, operational chemical labs, etc.
- If an activity does not present an immediate threat to life or property, then make a notification to MCFRS Special Operations in one of two ways:
  1. Send an email to [#frs.SAR@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:#frs.SAR@montgomerycountymd.gov). The email should document as many details as possible and provide contact information for the sender.

**Or**

2. Complete an online form at <https://mcfrs.jotform.com/231383919460056>

- Both of these methods will notify MCFRS and initiate coordination with local law enforcement. This notification should be made quickly enough that law enforcement can make contact with the suspected people or to follow up with investigation.
- DETAILS ARE CRITICAL...Be prepared to give as much detail as possible. This would include items such as: Make, model, color, and license plate of the vehicle involved as well as a detailed description of the people involved. Also identify the reason you believe the behavior or indicator is suspicious.
- If there may be an immediate threat, the notification to MCFRS Special Operations is secondary to the notification of law enforcement.

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#### **Suspicious activities that require immediate notification to law enforcement:**

- Aviation Activity: Operation of an aircraft in a manner that reasonably may be interpreted as suspicious, or posing a threat to people or property. Such operation may or may not be a violation of Federal Aviation Regulations.
- Breach/Attempted Intrusion: Unauthorized personnel attempting to, or entering, a restricted area or protected site. Impersonation of authorized personnel (e.g., police/security, janitor).
- Cyber Attack: Compromising, attempting to compromise, or disrupt an organization's information technology infrastructure.
- Misrepresentation: Presenting false or misusing insignia, documents, and/or identification, to misrepresent one's affiliation to cover possible illicit activity.
- Sabotage/Tampering/Vandalism: Damaging, manipulating, or defacing part of a facility/infrastructure or protected site.
- Spoken or Written Threat: Communicating a spoken or written threat to damage or compromise a facility/infrastructure.
- Theft/Loss/Diversion: Stealing or diverting something associated with a facility/infrastructure (e.g., badges, uniforms, identification, emergency vehicles, technology or documents {classified or unclassified}, which are proprietary to the facility).
- Weapons Discovery: Discovery of unusual amounts of weapons or explosives that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.

#### **Potential criminal or non-criminal activities that require additional investigation and notification to law enforcement:**

- Acquisition of Expertise: Attempts to obtain or conduct training in security concepts; military weapons or tactics; or other unusual capabilities that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
- Eliciting Information: Questioning individuals at a level beyond mere curiosity about particular facets of a facility's or building's purpose, operations, security procedures, etc., that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
- Materials Acquisition/Storage: Acquisition and/or storage of unusual quantities of materials such as cell phones, pagers, fuel, chemicals, toxic materials, and timers, such that a reasonable person would suspect possible criminal/terrorist activity.
- Observation/Surveillance: Demonstrating unusual interest in facilities, buildings, or infrastructure beyond mere casual or professional (e.g., engineers) interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious. Examples include observation through binoculars, taking notes, attempting to measure distances, etc.

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- Photography: Taking pictures or video of facilities, buildings, or infrastructure in a manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. Examples include taking pictures or video of infrequently used access points, personnel performing security functions (patrols, badge/vehicle checking), security-related equipment (perimeter fencing, security cameras), etc.
- Sector-Specific Incident: Actions associated with a characteristic of unique concern to specific sectors (such as the public health sector), with regard to their personnel, facilities, systems or functions.
- Testing or Probing of Security: Deliberate interactions with, or challenges to, installations, personnel, or systems that reveal physical, personnel, or cyber security capabilities.

For any questions or further clarification contact the Special Operations Section