

WORKBOOK 8.2: INDICATORS OF HOSTILE SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES



Purpose: To present examples of typical indicators of surveillance

As a law enforcement officer, a member of the community, a critical infrastructure employee, or a member of critical infrastructure security personnel, you should always be watchful for indicators that will alert you to hostile surveillance against a potential target. To distinguish normal from abnormal behaviors, you must first be familiar with normal activities and routines in your area of responsibility and then be alert to actions or characteristics that do not fit the norm and trigger suspicions.

You should systematically observe specific areas to identify people or activities inconsistent with the environment and expected behavior. If observed, you must document and report all of these indicators.

The following list provides indicators of hostile surveillance activities for both people and vehicles.

People (Hostile Surveillants)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person or activity, separated by time, distance, or direction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals who do not fit into the surrounding environment because they are wearing improper attire for the location or season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons seen in the same location on multiple occasions; persons sitting in a parked car for an extended time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons exiting from vehicles in an abnormal manner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons using possible ruses or disguises to cover their activities, such as a beggar, demonstrator, shoeshine vendor, street sweeper, or food, newspaper, or flower vendor not previously recognized in the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abnormal or prolonged interest in security measures, security personnel, entry points and access controls, or perimeter barriers such as fences or walls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An increase in anonymous threats followed by individuals noticeably observing security reaction drills or procedures; individual(s) questioning security or facility personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons hesitating or looking around when entering a building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work crews (check vehicles, equipment, and clothing — especially footwear — for peculiarities); check with the appropriate agency to verify the legitimacy of the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persons showing abnormal interest in or photographing security cameras, guard locations, or security reaction drills and procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals who carry on long conversations on pay or cellular telephones

People (Hostile Surveillants)

Individuals who exhibit suspicious behavior, such as:

- Nervous behavior
- Drawing pictures or taking notes
- Parking vehicles in prohibited zones
- Turning away when observed
- Stopping abruptly and looking to the rear
- Reversing course and retracing steps
- Stopping abruptly after turning a corner
- Watching reflections in shop windows
- Stopping to tie a shoestring and looking behind them
- Jumping off a bus or subway just as doors are about to close
- Entering a building and leaving immediately via another exit

Vehicles

- Multiple sightings of the same suspicious vehicle separated by time, distance, or direction
- Vehicles seen in the same location on multiple occasions; persons sitting in a parked car for an extended time
- Vehicles parked in prohibited zones
- Vehicles driving inconsistently with traffic flow, making erratic moves, or abrupt stops
- Irregular communication or signaling between persons or vehicles
- Unprofessional shift changes (one vehicle arriving, another departing, possible communication between drivers)
- Persons exiting from vehicles in an abnormal manner
- Any vehicle with an altered or obstructed license plate
- Broken-down vehicles