



跨部門反恐專責組
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

Safe Community Newsletter

2026 April Issue #16



Spot & Report – Eyes Open, Keep Yourself Safe

Why does your awareness matter?

In our busy daily lives, it is easy to overlook the environment around us. However, community safety is a shared responsibility. Often, the most effective tool for preventing emergencies or more unfortunately, violent attacks, is the eyes and ears of vigilant citizens.

What is “Suspicious”?

The Golden Rule : If something looks not right, or out of place for its environment, report to the security and the Police immediately.



Look out for anything suspicious

You know your neighbourhood better than anyone. If something does not seem right, do not hesitate to reach out to the Police. Below are some of the factors that you may consider:

OBJECTS

Suspicious objects can be identified by using the acronym "U.F.O.". Safe Community Newsletter Issue 12 has all the details on what to look for and how to handle suspicious objects.



Unusual Appearance
Foreign to Area
Ownership Unknown



Scan the QR code and take a look!

VEHICLES

- Heading towards a crowd at a high speed
- Circling around an area repeatedly
- Suspicious items found on or inside the vehicle



PERSONS



- Loitering suspiciously
- Unusual attention to security facilities (e.g. CCTV)
- Asking too many or strange questions
- Inconsistent when answering questions from security personnel
- Outfit is not commensurate with the weather or environment

Spot the warning signs



New Orleans, the US 2025-01-01

A 42-year-old US army veteran drove a rented truck into a group of pedestrians celebrating the New Year in New Orleans. He then alighted the vehicle with a firearm and opened fire on police officers. 14 were killed and over 50 injured.

Warning Sign:

-  A flag of terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was found at the back of the vehicle
-  Hours prior the attack, he posted videos on Facebook, proclaiming his support for ISIL

HKSAR 2020-02-02

A cleaner spotted a suspicious plastic bag under a seat on a train at Lo Wu. She then passed it to an MTR staff, who found wires therein. Police was called and confirmed that two explosive devices were inside the bag. One of the devices was defused while the other one caught fire and spurted white smoke. No one was hurt.

Warning Sign:

-  Unusual appearance – exposed electrical wires



What to do in the event of a vehicle ramming attack ?

Run away from the path of the approaching vehicle.



Remember –
“Run, Hide, Report”!



If unable to run, take cover. Position yourself behind sturdy cover, such as a concrete wall or heavy object, to break the driver's line of sight.



Stay vigilant for secondary attack. Attackers may alight the vehicle to continue the attack with firearms or edged weapons.



Spot and Report



Be our eyes and ears

Not every suspicious person, unattended bag or vehicle is a threat, but it is better safe than sorry.



Trust your instincts. If you see suspicious activity or an item that does not belong to a place, report it to the Police right away. Every detail counts.