



Arizona P.A.S.S.
Partners for Arizona's Safety & Security



Arizona Counter-Terrorism Information Center

Situational Awareness Information

Date: August 29, 2008

To: AZ P.A.S.S. Transportation Sector and Public Service Announcement

RE: MASS TRANSIT & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AWARENESS

Comment: The following information is intended to educate the General Public for Situational Awareness purposes only.

Background:

Public transportation systems across the U.S. have seen a surge in public use as fuel prices have been on the rise over the past year. Arizona currently has a relatively limited public mass transportation system, however, the addition of the anticipated Light Rail system will increase the public's use of this cost saving and convenient mode of transportation. AZ PASS does not possess any specific information to indicate a threat to conduct an attack on Arizona's public transportation system by any group(s) or individual(s). This information is provided to the public to brief and sensitize the public's awareness regarding possible indicators and protective measures that can be used to help ensure the safety and security of Arizona's citizens.

Indicators

Vigilance remains a key component in preventing a terrorist attack against U.S. mass transit systems. Possible indicators of terrorist preoperational activity or attack preparations include the following:

- Asking suspicious questions, photographing, videotaping, or displaying prolonged interest in mass transit operations, equipment, facilities, and security procedures.
- Placing backpacks or suitcases in a different compartment than the one being occupied.
- Leaving bags unattended in public areas to observe security response procedures and times.

Arizona P.A.S.S. is a partnership of the Arizona Counter Terrorism Center, the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, US Department of Homeland Security, Phoenix InfraGard, and Private sector companies working together to protect Arizona.

- Wearing oversized coats, dressing inappropriately for weather conditions, or carrying backpacks that are excessively bulky, stained, or emitting fumes.
- Attempting to gain employment with a mass transit system without the appropriate background or qualifications.

Suggested Protective Measures

Listed below are measures that transit system owners and security personnel can implement to protect against or deter terrorist preoperational activity or attack preparations:

- Encourage citizens to report to appropriate authorities any person who engages in suspicious activities that might be related to the production, research, or use of explosives.
- Encourage employees to be alert and immediately report any situation that appears to constitute a threat or suspicious activity.
- Increase visible security measures, such as access control and perimeter security.
- Train security personnel and employees to recognize suspicious activities and indicators that might suggest a suicide bomber.
- Post additional security personnel in areas where large groups of people congregate.
- Limit the number of access points and secure all facility access points not staffed by security personnel.
- Screen bags, packages, and parcels entering the facility.
- Conduct employee background checks.

Analytical Comment: This information is provided to the public for situational awareness purposes only. AZ PASS possesses no specific credible information that suggests any terrorist organizations or individuals are planning an attack toward any Arizona or U.S. mass transit system. All Mass Transit system riders are reminded to be vigilant and maintain situational awareness. The public is encouraged to report suspicious activities regarding the light rail or other mass transit systems to the ACTIC at actic@azdps.gov for analysis.