

Surface Transportation Security Awareness Message

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Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement—Surface Division

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO) ATTENTION—VEHICLE RENTAL INDUSTRY

(U) Recent events in Europe have highlighted the increasing prevalence of terrorists' use of vehicle ramming attacks, particularly those involving rental vehicles. On 8/17/17, a rented commercial van was used in a ramming attack in Barcelona, Spain killing at least 13 and injuring more than 100. On 6/3/17, a rental van was used in a ramming attack on pedestrians on London Bridge killing eight and injuring 48. On 3/22/17, a rental vehicle was used in a ramming attack on Westminster Bridge in London. Four people died in the attack, and an unarmed police officer was fatally stabbed.

(U//FOUO) At this time, the TSA Office of Intelligence and Analysis (TSA OIA) is not aware of any current or credible plots to attack transportation within the United States; however, TSA OIA remains concerned with terrorist organizations' efforts to conduct attacks against transportation. Threat actors in the Homeland may be influenced by successful overseas attacks to target transportation in the United States. The current National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin issued on 5/15/17 regarding the threat from HVEs remains in effect (http://www.dhs.gov/advisories).

(U) Employees of vehicle rental companies should be aware of circumstances that may seem suspicious or customers that exhibit suspicious behaviors, such as:

- Trembling, unusual perspiration, clock watching, continuously scanning the area, heavy breathing, repetitively touching the face, pacing, or exaggerated yawning;
- Providing vague or unverifiable references or employment information when making a reservation or completing a rental agreement;
- Presenting an altered or expired identification or driver's license;
- Making inquiries about whether a rental vehicle can be modified to handle heavier loads, create additional storage areas, increase fuel capacity or vehicle speed;
- Insisting on renting a truck with a wooden rather than a metal floor;
- Wearing clothing that is not appropriate for the season or wearing a disguise; or
- Attempting to rapidly collect the deposit on a rental vehicle reported as stolen.

(U) Rental company employees should review and be knowledgeable of their company's security policies and procedures, and should be observant of their surroundings, whether at the rental counter or outside the company's facility. TSA encourages companies to remind employees to report suspicious activities in accordance with company procedures. Persons whose behavior does not fit their circumstances or surroundings should be brought to the attention of law enforcement—"If you See Something, Say Something.™" Contact information for company supervisors, local law enforcement, and the local FBI field office should be readily available to employees to assist them in reporting suspicious activity.

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