



United States
Department of Justice



FUSION CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Colorado Community Awareness Program

Background

Developed by The Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (The CELL) and the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC), and presented in partnership with the Colorado Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Denver Urban Area, the Colorado Community Awareness Program (CAP) empowers citizens to help play a role in enhancing their community's safety through raising awareness, educating the public, and encouraging community involvement. The CAP was developed in line with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign, and is a follow on effort to the successful "Recognizing the 8 Signs of Terrorism™" video released in 2009.

Colorado Information Analysis Center

The CIAC is a multi-agency fusion center established in 2005 to create cross-jurisdictional partnerships between local, State, and Federal agencies to include private sector participants. It provides one central point in Colorado for the collection, analysis, and timely dissemination of all hazards information. The CIAC is managed by the Office of Preparedness and Security (OPS) under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, with the day-to-day management led by the Colorado State Patrol. A Board of Executive Directors that represents local, county, State, and tribal levels of government guides CIAC policy and procedure.



The Cell

The CELL is a non-profit institution dedicated to addressing the most important global issue of our time – terrorism. Its exhibits and programs provide a comprehensive look at the security and related social challenges that face civilized societies today. The CELL exists to educate citizens on the realities of today's global terrorism threats, and seeks to empower both individuals and organizations with the knowledge and the tools to proactively effect change.



THE CELL
THE COUNTERTERRORISM
EDUCATION LEARNING LAB

The CELL previously partnered with the CIAC and developed the "Recognizing 8 Signs of Terrorism™" video. The video was designed to educate Colorado citizens about the shared responsibility of recognizing signs of terrorist activity.

Overview

The CAP is a free, interactive program distributed by Colorado Terrorism Liaison Officers (TLOs) and provides citizens with the basic tools they need to recognize and prevent terrorist and criminal activity in their communities. The program is guided by the principle that every citizen has a role to play in keeping our communities safe.



The Community Awareness Program

Throughout the program, TLOs provide resources on how citizens may assist proper authorities in dealing with the prevention of terrorism. The program leverages visual materials and hands-on activities to help participants learn about terrorism. Participants also learn the actions they can take when they witness suspicious behaviors. Specifically, the program addresses the following topic areas:

- The definition of terrorism
- The tools and methods used by terrorists
- Current terrorist threats
- How to recognize the eight signs of terrorism
- How to assemble a disaster-preparedness kit
- What to report/how to report while preserving civil rights and civil liberties
- What happens after information is reported

After completing the CAP, citizens are equipped with the basic tools necessary to assist in recognizing terrorism and other criminal activity in accordance with the behaviors outlined in the ISE-SAR Functional Standard v. 1.5, which is the foundation of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI). In addition, participating citizens are given information on how to prepare themselves and their families should an incident occur in their community. The CAP also highlights the work of the CIAC and enhances the public perception of fusion centers through emphasis on measures taken by the CIAC to preserve the civil rights and civil liberties of Colorado citizens while enhancing community safety and security.

Participation

The CAP lasts approximately two and a half hours and is currently being provided at the Denver Art Museum on a monthly basis and additional deliveries are being offered at Colorado State University and the Parker Police Department at various dates and times.

“If You See Something, Say Something™”

A complementary effort to the CAP Program that highlights the principle that every citizen has a role to play in keeping our communities safe, Secretary Napolitano unveiled the “If You See Something, Say Something™” public awareness video – a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities - at the National Fusion Center Conference in Denver. The video can be viewed at www.dhs.gov and is being customized upon request for Fusion Centers as a training tool. Also, in March the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced its partnership with the state of Colorado on the “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign.

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