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Dams Sector Suspicious Activity Reporting

Suspicious activities are anomalous behaviors that may potentially be associated with pre-operational/preparatory surveillance, operational activities exploring or targeting a sector facility or system, or any possible violation of law or regulation that could compromise a sector facility or system in a manner that could cause an incident jeopardizing life or property.

Background

The Dams Sector has developed an online tool within the Homeland Security Information Network - Critical Infrastructure (HSIN-CI) Dams Portal to provide sector partners with a mechanism to submit Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs). The online tool provides the capability to report and retrieve information pertaining to suspicious activities that may potentially be associated with pre-incident surveillance, activities exploring or targeting a critical infrastructure facility or system, or any possible violation of law or regulation that could compromise the facility or system and potentially jeopardize life or property.

The online tool is not intended to replace existing agency or organization reporting mechanisms, but rather enhance them by providing a broader, horizontal approach to reporting suspicious activities. SARs should be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities; this online tool provides an extra opportunity for real-time situational awareness across the sector. Often times, agency or organizational suspicious activity reporting is kept internal, thus restricting situational awareness across the sector.

The SAR tool within the HSIN-CI Dams Portal offers sector partners the opportunity to better understand the implications of incidents that occur throughout the Nation by examining reports from a broad range of sector stakeholders and subsequently determine any need to implement protective measures. In addition to enhancing situational awareness among Dams Sector partners, the SAR information is also provided to intelligence components from various government agencies for further analysis.

Examples of Suspicious Activities:

- Showing unusual interest in a facility (e.g., observing through binoculars, taking notes, photography, drawing maps, or drawing structures of the facility)
- Persons parking, standing, or loitering in the same area on multiple days with no reasonable explanation for doing so
- Persons not associated with the facility showing an increased interest in the surrounding area

What Can You Do? Follow These Simple Steps

Suspicious incidents may actually constitute pre-operational activities, and should be reported immediately.

- Maintain awareness of your environment
- Identify behaviors that are out of the ordinary
- Report the activity with as much detail as possible



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Types of Suspicious Activity

The SAR online tool provides Dams Sector partners with the capability to report various types of suspicious activities, including:

- *Acquisition of Expertise*
- *Aviation Activity*
- *Breach or Attempted Intrusion*
- *Cyberattack*
- *Eliciting Information*
- *Expressed or Implied Threat*
- *Materials Acquisition or Storage*
- *Misrepresentation*
- *Observation or Surveillance*
- *Photography*
- *Sector-Specific Event*
- *Sabotage, Tampering, or Vandalism*
- *Theft, Loss, or Diversion of Materials*
- *Testing or Probing of Security*
- *Weapons Discovery*

SAR Online Tool

Dams Sector Partners can access the SAR Online Tool through the Dams Sector SAR online tool, available via the HSIN-CI Dams Portal. Reports submitted via the online tool will be available to appropriate stakeholders across the sector for further analysis, as well as the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For more information:

Please contact the Dams Sector-Specific Agency at dams@hq.dhs.gov for additional information pertaining to this effort.



The National Protection and Programs Directorate/Office of Infrastructure Protection (NPPD/IP) leads the national effort to mitigate risk to America's critical infrastructure from the full spectrum of 21st century threats and hazards. NPPD/IP coordinates with government and critical infrastructure owners and operators across 16 diverse sectors to enhance critical infrastructure resilience, strengthen protective programs, and share vital information.



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