

SpearPoint Defense Group

10 WARNING SIGNS OF A POTENTIAL THREAT

Recognize the signs. Act before it escalates.



Introduction

If you manage people, facilities, or high-liability environments—recognizing the early signs of a potential threat is critical. The following warning signs are common indicators observed prior to acts of violence, sabotage, or targeted harassment. This guide is used by security professionals, administrators, HR teams, and property managers to stay ahead of threats.

Top 10 Warning Signs

1. Verbal threats or intimidation

Direct or indirect statements about harming others—often brushed off as sarcasm or "just venting."

2. Obsession with weapons or violence

Fixation on firearms, past shootings, military violence, or admiration of attackers.

3. Withdrawal or isolation

Sudden changes in social habits, loss of interest, or cutting off coworkers/family.

4. Decline in work or academic performance

Unexplained drop in output or attendance, especially following personal issues or conflicts.



5. Fixation on a grievance

An individual obsessed with perceived injustice, often targeting a specific person or group.

6. Unusual interest in security measures

Asking detailed questions about exits, camera placements, guard rotations, or emergency procedures.

7. Erratic behavior on social media

Concerning posts, threats, images of weapons, extremist rhetoric, or "goodbye" messages.

8. History of aggression or violent incidents

Prior fights, domestic violence, animal cruelty, or other violence-related behaviors.

9. Bullying or being bullied

Both victims and aggressors may carry anger and resentment that can escalate dangerously.

10. Statements of hopelessness or revenge

Saying things like "you'll all be sorry," "I'll show them," or "what's the point of living?"

What To Do If You See These Signs

- Do not ignore or minimize these behaviors.
- Report immediately to HR, law enforcement, or your security team.



- Document the behavior, dates, and witnesses.
- Avoid direct confrontation.
- Contact SpearPoint Defense Group for a formal Behavioral Threat Assessment or Site Risk Evaluation.

Stay Ahead of the Threat.

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SpearPoint Defense Group – Tip of the Spear in Threat Prevention