



First Observer Plus

Security
Awareness
Program

SECURING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION THROUGH AWARENESS AND REPORTING

TSA's **First Observer Plus™** is a security awareness training program designed to promote surface transportation security within the United States. Its mission is to increase security awareness of frontline transportation professionals by providing training to recognize suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism, to assess what they see, and methods for reporting their observations. Its message is simple: "Observe, Assess, and Report suspicious activities."

- The First Observer Plus program was developed in support of a national strategy to mitigate the risk associated with surface transportation through security awareness training. Originally introduced in 2008 as First Observer, the successor to Highway Watch, the latest iteration includes revised and updated training content that has been expanded to include all modes of surface transportation.

Eligible Candidates



First Observer Plus™ training is offered online or can be delivered in a group or classroom setting, facilitated free of charge by TSA, at industry conferences, company facilities, or other transportation venues.

Both online and group facilitated training modules are currently available for the following industries:

- General Surface Transportation
- General Trucking
- Hazardous Materials Trucking
- Food & Agriculture Trucking
- School Bus
- Over-the-Road Bus
- Vehicle Rental
- General Parking
- Parking/Large Venues
- Highway Workers
- Mass Transit/Passenger Rail
- Mass Transit Law Enforcement
- Pipelines
- Freight Rail*

*Only available in a group classroom setting

Mission



Through First Observer Plus™, participants receive an understanding of what may constitute a terrorist threat within their transportation work environment. The training program explores the justifications and motives offered by terrorists; identifies various stages and processes often employed in the planning and execution of a terrorist act; and teaches the participant to recognize and report potential indicators.

Application

- 1. Training is offered at the request of industry partners and in support for National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating Initiatives
- 2. Training is provided as a risk mitigation activity through stakeholder engagement
- 3. First Observer Plus™ may be provided in conjunction with the TSA BASE, EXIS, and/or SETA programs to enhance a stakeholder's security posture
- 4. TSA trains select industry partners to provide First Observer Plus™ training to their company employees

Community Engagement



Participation in the program provides the necessary training as well as the encouragement and empowerment needed for millions of U.S. transportation professionals to become active contributors in the spirit of the Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign. For more information about the First Observer Plus Program or to receive training, visit <https://www.tsa.gov/firstobserver>





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In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, TSA Surface Operations is offering a series of First Observer Plus™ Security Awareness Training virtual seminars tailored to school bus operators and school bus drivers nationwide. These seminars will be conducted virtually via the WebEx internet platform on the dates and times listed below. Each professionally facilitated training session is identical and will be open to any and all personnel associated with school bus operations or other areas of pupil transportation.

TSA First Observer Plus™ Security Awareness Training Seminar Series

Each of the links below will direct the user to the First Observer Plus™ virtual presentation on the WebEx platform at the specified date and time.

Please follow the link for the session you would like to attend, there is no pre-registration required.

[Thursday, August 5 – 1400-1600 EST](#)

[Tuesday, August 17 –
1100-1300 EST](#)

[Thursday, August 19 –
1400-1600 EST](#)

[Tuesday, August 10 –
1100-1300 EST](#)

[Tuesday, August 24 –
1100-1300 EST](#)

[Thursday, August 12 –
1400-1600 EST](#)

[Thursday, August 26 –
1400-1600 EST](#)

*Click link to join the live meeting



Seminar Series Information

Please refer to the corresponding First Observer Plus™ Fact Sheet for additional information about the program and contacts.

Any questions regarding these presentations should be directed to your applicable local Surface Field Office, Regional Security Director or the First Observer Plus™ Program Manager – Joseph.Larkin@tsa.dhs.gov.



We look forward to providing this important security awareness training

For General Questions: FirstObserver@tsa.dhs.gov / visit www.tsa.gov

Stakeholder Fact Sheet
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TSA Surface Operations

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