



WMD OPERATIONS AND COUNTERMEASURES UNITS

Chemical Sector Reporting Essential in Detecting Suspicious Acquisition of Chemical and Explosive Precursor Materials

07/29/2011

THIS INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED WITH LOCAL CHEMICAL SECTOR EMPLOYEES AND RETAILERS. INFORMATION FROM THIS BULLETIN IS FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (JTTF) WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

The critical role of chemical sector and private companies' reporting of suspicious behavior, activity and purchases has been reinforced through recent internet propaganda promoting the acquisition of chemical explosive precursors from United States (U.S.) businesses and chemical corporations. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate's (WMDD) liaison and outreach efforts to U.S. companies have led to the arrests of multiple individuals with nefarious intent.

The FBI WMDD urges employees of such corporations to remain vigilant in the reporting of any suspicious activity to your local Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and police department.

INDICATORS¹

The FBI has identified the following indicators of suspicious behavior related to the purchase of explosive precursor material. Potential indicators and suspicious activities include but are not limited to:

- Customer seeking to purchase the precursor chemicals for explosives in combination or in large quantities:
 - Hydrogen peroxide;
 - Sulfuric acid;
 - Hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid);
 - Acetone;
 - Ammonium nitrate;
 - Potassium chlorate;
 - Sodium chlorate;
 - Urea; and/or
 - Potassium permanganate.
- Customer has little or no legitimate working knowledge of or use for the chemical(s) being purchased;
- Quantity of supplies purchased is inconsistent with stated purpose of customer, or customer has illogical explanation for supplies;
- Customer is preoccupied with the concentration levels of hydrogen peroxide or acetone or asks about boiling or making liquid more concentrated;
- Customer requesting to purchase hydrogen peroxide in a concentration of 30 percent or more;
- Customer purchases storage containers, mixing utensils, and/or rubber gloves in conjunction with hydrogen peroxide/acetone; and/or
- Customer has burn marks on hands, arms, or face;

UNCLASSIFIED

- Last minute change of addresses or billing information on internet or delivery purchases;
or
- Customer's request for shipment to a P.O. Box or unattributed address.

MITIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The FBI has established the following recommended responses and steps designed to mitigate potential threats:

- Make note of suspicious statements or behavior and report relevant information to the FBI and local authorities;
- Keep records of purchases and promptly report any missing or stolen precursor chemicals;
- Ask customers questions about their intended use of the chemical and listen to and observe their responses; and
- Know what quantities are usual for purchases at your business.

ⁱ Each indicator referenced in this product is, by itself, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. For this reason, no single indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.