



(U//FOUO) Ongoing Terrorist Interest in Homemade Explosives

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(U) Homemade Explosives

(U//FOUO) In light of the ongoing investigation in New York City, DHS and the FBI believe it is prudent to remind our state and local partners about the variety of domestically-available materials that could be used to create homemade explosives, which have been utilized in previous terrorist attacks.

- (U//FOUO) DHS and the FBI have no specific information regarding the timing, location, or target of any planned attack.

(U//FOUO) The precursors used to form hydrogen-peroxide based explosives—such as TATP and HMTD—can be obtained at various retail outlets, including hardware stores and pharmacies.

- (U//FOUO) Recipes for making explosives are taught in terrorist training camps, are published in widely circulated terrorist manuals, and have been recovered from terrorist safehouses.
- (U//FOUO) Hydrogen-peroxide based explosives are powerful and highly unstable; furthermore, similarities in appearance and methods of production can cause first responders to mistake certain explosives for chemicals used to manufacture narcotics.
- (U//FOUO) Homemade explosives can be concealed and transported by an individual using a backpack, suitcase, plastic container, or other hand-carried item. In the attacks that occurred in London on 7 July 2005, the suicide bombers carried their homemade hydrogen-peroxide based explosives in backpacks.

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(U) Potential Indicators of Explosives Manufacturing

(U//FOUO) In general, almost every home-made explosives manufacturing process affects the immediate environment. Individuals using concentrated hydrogen peroxide also might exhibit white-colored peroxide burns on skin that has come in direct contact with these types of substances. Some indicators that may point to homemade explosives production include the following:

- (U//FOUO) Individuals who have burn marks on their hands, arms, or face, or who have stains on clothing.
- (U//FOUO) Foul odors or caustic fumes coming from a room or building.
- (U//FOUO) Damage to ceilings and walls—such as corrosion of metal surfaces or structural damage—and paint discoloration from harsh chemical fumes.
- (U//FOUO) Strong chemical odors emanating from sewers and drain ditches.
- (U//FOUO) Large industrial fans or multiple fans in windows.
- (U//FOUO) Dead vegetation in the surrounding area.
- (U//FOUO) Presence of metal or plastic drums for storing explosives.
- (U//FOUO) Machinery—such as gas burners or mixers—for processing raw materials.
- (U//FOUO) Discoloration of pavement, soil, or structure.
- (U//FOUO) Refrigerators or coolers used to store volatile chemicals and finished products.

(U//FOUO) Further potential indicators include individuals requesting or purchasing information (such as textbooks) on using peroxide. Additionally, high-quantity purchases of hydrogen peroxide—such as more than a gallon—should also be considered suspicious.

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