

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Peroxide-Based Explosives

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Unknown customer or customer from out of the area.
- Customer has little or no legitimate working knowledge of the chemical being purchased.
- Individual requesting or purchasing
  - Information or books about using peroxide to make explosives.
  - Unusual quantities of a chemical, such as more than a gallon of hydrogen peroxide.
  - Hydrogen peroxide in a concentration of 30% or higher.
- Individual seeking to purchase the precursor chemicals for the compound TATP (triacetone triperoxide) in combination or in large quantity.
  - Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)
  - Sulfuric acid (oil of vitriol, battery acid)
  - Acetone (propanone, dimethyl ketone)
- Individual seeking to purchase the precursor chemicals for the compound HMTD (hexamethylene triperoxide diamine) in combination or in large quantity.
  - Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)
  - Hexamine (methenamine, solid fuel tablets)
  - Citric acid (hydrogen citrate, concentrated lemons and limes)

Hydrogen peroxide may be purchased on the Internet or from a pharmacy, food store, home improvement or hardware store, chemical distributor, health store, or beauty supply store.

### What Should I Do?

- **Know what chemicals are distributed by your business.**
- **Know what quantities are usual for purchases by customers at your business.**
- **Know your customers.**
  - Require valid ID from all new customers.
  - Ask customers questions about their intended use of the chemical, and listen to and observe their responses.
  - Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles, especially if the customer displays an out-of-state driver's license or is driving a rental vehicle or a vehicle with an out-of-state license plate.
- **Keep records of purchases.**
- **Report any missing or stolen precursor chemicals to law enforcement authorities.**
- **If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.**
- **Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.**

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Terrorism may be national or international in scope, but terrorist incidents occur locally and are preceded by a number of pre-incident activities. Individuals in the community are key to identifying these pre-incident activities. By learning what to look for, **you** can aid law enforcement officials in protecting the homeland.

Your knowledge can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In your business arena, **you** are best informed about what constitutes suspicious activity.

By being aware of what to look for and knowing how to report suspicious behavior, **you** can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. **The partnership between the community and law enforcement is essential to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.**

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious. Instead, focus on behavior and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation and that appear to be suspicious.

The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years. Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate.

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## Potential Indicators of Activities Related to Peroxide-Based Explosives



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