

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Peroxide-Based Explosives

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or groups who

- Have little or no legitimate working knowledge of the peroxide-based chemical being purchased, given the quantity.
- Request or purchase:
 - Information or books about using peroxide to make explosives.
 - Unusually large quantities of a chemical, such as more than a gallon of hydrogen peroxide.
 - Hydrogen peroxide in a concentration of 30 percent or higher.

Unusual or atypical inquiries regarding

- Purchasing the precursor chemicals for the compound TATP (triacetone triperoxide) in combination or in large quantities:
 - Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)
 - Sulfuric acid (oil of vitriol, battery acid)
 - Acetone (propanone, dimethyl ketone)
- Purchasing the precursor chemicals for the compound HMTD (hexamethylene triperoxide diamine) in combination or in large quantities:
 - Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)
 - Hexamine (methenamine, solid fuel tablets)
 - Citric acid (hydrogen citrate, concentrated lemons and limes)

Other potential indicators

- Thefts of the precursor chemicals for TATP or HMTD.

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.

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life are different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious.



What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution

- ✓ Know typical quantities for distribution for all chemicals you distribute.
- ✓ Know your customers.
- ✓ Require valid ID from new customers.
- ✓ Ask customers about their purpose for chemicals and observe their responses.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, behaviors, activities, and/or vehicles, especially if a customer has an out-of-state driver's license, drives a rental vehicle, or drives a vehicle with an out-of-state license plate.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ Report any missing or stolen chemicals to law enforcement authorities.

Remember...

- ✓ If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.
- ✓ Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.
- ✓ Focus on behaviors and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation.
- ✓ Individually, these activities could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, **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.

Some of these 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. The activities outlined in this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.