



CHEMICAL FACILITIES

BusinessSafe is based on the idea that certain businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain materials, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone, each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information may possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Chemical Facilities, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Theft or unexplained loss of chemicals from your business inventory, tractor-trailer or railcar fleet.
- Requests to purchase unusual amounts of chemicals or an unusual combination of chemicals.
- Unusual inquiries from strangers concerning how your business stores chemicals or handles them on premises. Similar or other inquiries from a previous customer whose identity is not clear.
- Transaction(s) involving an intermediary agent and/or third party consignee that is unusual in light of their usual business.

- Customer's use of evasive or overly vague responses.
- Customer's reluctance to provide information on the location where the chemicals purchased or acquired will be stored.
- Customer's reason for purchasing the chemicals does not match the customer's usual business or technological level.
- Unusual customer request concerning the shipment or labeling of goods.
- Unusual customer request for excessive confidentiality regarding the final destination or details of the product to be delivered.
- A customer canceled sale, and coincidentally the exact same product is stolen or "lost" shortly after the customer's inquiry.
- Apparent surveillance of your facility or business by unknown persons.
- Unusual inquiries by an individual(s) regarding the use and purchase of Sodium Azide.
*Note: Combining sodium azide with some metals, such as a drainpipe containing copper or lead, creates metal azides that can spontaneously explode if disturbed. Furthermore, the combination of sodium azide with lead nitrate can produce the primary high explosive lead azide. Primary high explosives are very sensitive to heat, impact, friction and static discharge.
- Unusual inquiries by an individual(s) of salvage yard proprietors for airbags. *Note: Sodium azide found as tablets are routinely stacked in canisters contained in undeployed airbags.

Notably, in Western Europe there have been a number of arrests of individuals alleged to be planning terrorist attacks using chemicals. For example, on December 16, 2002, French anti-terror police arrested four suspects in Paris and seized iron per-chloride, which could have been used in a chemical attack.

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern, or set of circumstances is unusual.

Please remember that the conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Suspicious incidents should be reported immediately to your local law enforcement agency, Crime Stoppers, or your regional FDLE office. You may also email a tip regarding a suspicious incident utilizing the link on the [BusinessSafe homepage](#).

For all emergencies, call "911."