

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Chemical Sector

Criminal Activity

The chemical sector in Florida provides essential services to a variety of other infrastructure sectors including water treatment, manufacturing, agriculture, and the healthcare sector. Criminal actors may attempt to take advantage of vulnerabilities in this sector to access potentially harmful substances for nefarious purposes.

1. **Cyberattacks** – Many chemical facilities have implemented cybersecurity measures to limit network vulnerabilities and protect against intrusions. In the chemical sector, intrusions into both the information technology and operational technology systems could have serious consequences.

[Major U.S. Chemical Firms Hit by Cyberattack](#)
[A Cyberattack in Saudi Arabia had a Deadly Goal](#)

2. **Theft** – Criminal actors may target the chemical sector to obtain chemicals for a variety of nefarious purposes including drug production and the building of explosives. Often, these thefts will occur at local retail establishments instead of chemical plants.

[2 Men Steal Pricey Pool Cleaners from Pinch A Penny in Fort Lauderdale](#)

Other Threats and Hazards

The chemical sector has a reputation for resilience despite the hazardous factors inherent in the industry. Certain threats and hazards that disrupt the regular operations of dependent or interdependent sectors may challenge the chemical industry's ability to maintain the production and transport of chemicals.

1. **Chemical Spills** – The chemical sector relies heavily on the transportation sector for movement of chemicals. Although rare, the release of chemicals is a concern when transporting hazmat materials to and from chemical facilities.

[41 Kids Taken to Hospital as a Precaution After Acid Spill in Port Charlotte](#)
[Georgia Train Derailment: Town Evacuated After Hydrochloric Acid Spills from Tanks](#)



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2. **Natural Disasters** – Natural disasters that cause drastic disruptions to other critical infrastructure sectors may also impact the chemical sector through disruptions to the supply chain, power outages, and physical damage.
[A Chemical Plant Catches Fire After Harvey Flooding](#)
3. **Terrorism and Targeted Violence** – Chemical terrorist attacks are rare. However, malicious actors may seek to use chemicals to build explosive devices and to commit violent acts. For example, a highly volatile explosive made using chemicals, triacetone triperoxide (TATP), was used in several major attacks over the past decade including the 2019 Sri Lanka bombings, 2016 Manchester bombings, 2015 Paris attacks, and 2016 Brussels attacks. Preventing unauthorized access to chemicals, following proper chemical handling procedures, and reporting suspicious activity are essential to public safety.
[Tokyo marks 25th anniversary of subway nerve gas attack](#)
[Manatee County man facing charges over homemade explosives, more explosive material found](#)

Resources

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides a list of training and other resources relating to the chemical sector.

[Chemical Sector Training](#)

The Center for Disease Control provides guidance on protection from chemicals released during a natural disaster.

[Protect Yourself from Chemicals Released During a Natural Disaster](#)

FEMA's preparedness video provides guidance for businesses on sheltering-in-place in the event of a hazardous chemical release incident.

[Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program](#)

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