

# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to 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)

*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.*

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.

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 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. 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.