

Colorado Information Analysis Center Infrastructure Protection Threat Report: **CHEMICAL SECTOR**

(U) Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) The Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) has no current information indicating an imminent threat to Colorado chemical sector critical infrastructure. However, both within the United States and abroad, recent attempts to perpetrate attacks utilizing the Postal and Shipping and Transportation Sectors has created a need for heightened awareness. The CIAC has produced this assessment to provide situational awareness on the current critical infrastructure threat environment, sector incidents and trends, as well as pertinent updates. Information contained in this report originates from CIAC cases, unclassified local, state, and federal databases, and open source reporting.

(U) Threat Overview

(U//FOUO) In recent weeks, numerous critical infrastructure sectors have been targeted nationally and internationally. Recent intelligence has also indicated an elevated risk to “soft targets” such as malls and hotels. As the holiday season approaches, Transportation, Commercial Key Assets, and Postal and Shipping become an increasingly attractive target due to the rise in traffic and relative importance.

- (U//FOUO) 5 November 2010, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for sending explosive-laden packages on U.S. cargo planes on 29 October. AQAP suggested that the packages were capable of evading screening. Though the destination of the packages was Chicago synagogues, it is unclear where the packages were to be detonated.¹
- (U//FOUO) 2 November 2010, mail bombs from Greece were sent to German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s office. Several other mail bombs intended for European leaders were destroyed in Athens, Greece. Domestic political extremists are suspected in the incidents.²
- (U//FOUO) 3 October 2010, the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Consular Affairs, issued a travel alert regarding a potential terrorist attack in Europe. Venues of specific concern included transportation and other tourist infrastructure.³

(U//FOUO) Recent events and reporting emphasize terrorists’ intent to use chemical, biological, or radiological materials. Two documents addressing this concern have recently been released by DHS. These documents are highlighted below:

- (U//FOUO) 10 November 2010, DHS issued a Roll Call Release regarding terrorist interest in using an improvised chemical device called the “mubtakar.” This device is designed to release lethal quantities of hydrogen, cyanide, cyanogen chloride, and chlorine gases.⁴ A device like the mubtakar could help facilitate the deployment of toxic chemicals in enclosed spaces or the soft targets previously mentioned.
- (U//FOUO) 9 November 2010, DHS issued a Roll Call Release on the “potential for small-scale attacks using toxins and poisons.”⁵ The roll call expressed a continued interest by terrorists to use toxins, poisons, or other chemicals to carry out an attack. Many of the chemicals mentioned in terrorist manuals are most appropriate for small-scale attacks.

(U) Colorado Trends

(U//FOUO) Between 1 August and 31 October 2010, the CIAC received 74 case reports, of which 50 correlated with threats to critical infrastructure or key resources. A diagram showing the breakdown of those cases by sector has been provided below.

(U//FOUO) In addition to the the number of cases per sector reported, cross-sector reporting is also a factor in trend analysis. For example, Figure 1-1 illustrates only one case directly correlated to the Chemical sector during this time period. However, case reporting from the Government Facilities, Emergency Services, and Transportation sectors also had secondary involvement or ties to the Chemical sector. In many instances, cross-sector threats are a result of inter-dependencies or operational relationships (e.g. a commercial facility that stores hazardous chemicals).

(U//FOUO) The reported criminal activities described in Figure 1-2 can serve as indicators of precursor terrorist activity; surveillance and impersonation are both listed as one of the eight signs of terrorism.⁶ However, the CIAC has no credible information indicating a terrorist attack as a result of this reporting. Other activities can also serve as indicators of impending threats. For example, theft of emergency service equipment may be indicative of pending attempts to conduct impersonation or tests of security. In fact, all but one of the CIAC theft cases fits this model.

(U//FOUO) According to a 2009 joint FBI and DHS product, the Chemical sector continues to be a "potential target for terrorists."⁷ While an attack on a chemical storage facility or the transportation of chemicals was deemed the most likely, the Najibullah Zazi^{USPER} investigation highlights that acquisition of chemicals is also a significant threat to the chemical sector. As of August 2010, the CIAC has reported four suspicious attempts to purchase chemicals.

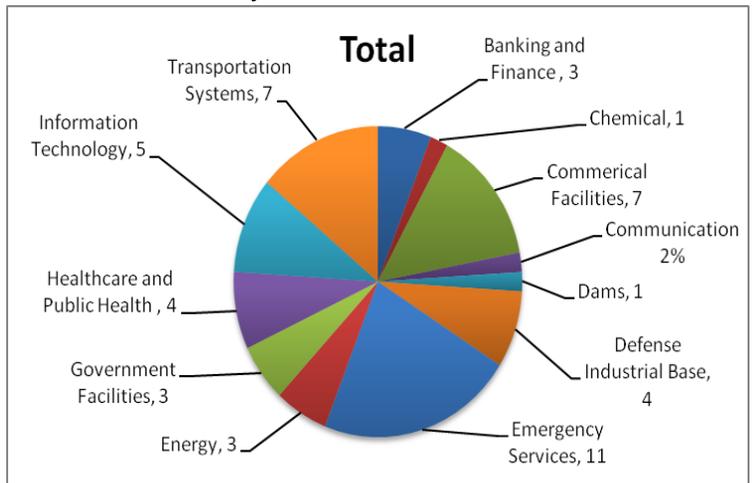


Figure 1-1 Total Number of Cases by Sector

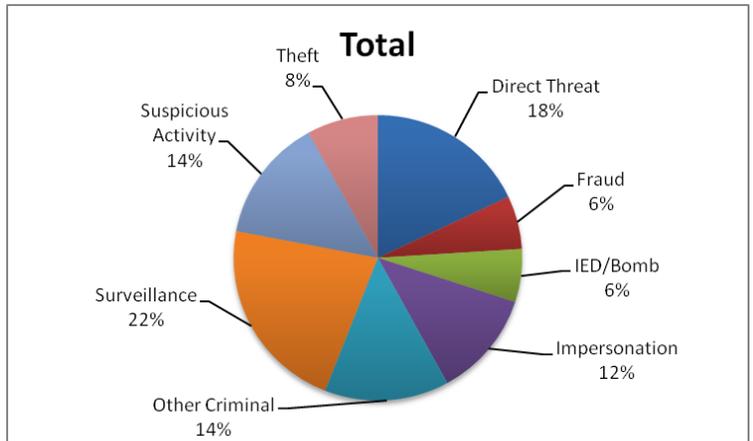


Figure 1-2 Percentage of Activity Reported

- (U//FOUO) 21 November 2010, the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center reported the occurrence of suspicious photography (surveillance) at a U.S. facility.⁸
- (U//FOUO) 19 November 2010 a CIAC case report was received from local private sector partners regarding increased number of purchases of highly flammable material
- (U//FOUO) 15 October 2010, the CIAC opens a case of a criminal dispute involving the holding of large amounts of anti-freeze.
- (U//FOUO) 18 August 2010, the CIAC opens a case regarding an individual calling a local laboratory inquiring about certain chemicals and how to acquire said chemicals.

(U) Updates & Notes

(U//FOUO) HSIN-CS Update

- (U//FOUO) The CIAC previously reported the development of a portal on the Homeland Security Information Network-Critical Sectors (HSIN-CS) website. HSIN-CS is a secure, unclassified, web-base program that serves as an information-sharing and collaboration system. Users are able to communicate to existing critical sector partners, develop new partners, share information, maintain situational awareness, and more. The CIAC will use this portal to facilitate collaboration with private sector partners. It is anticipated that the CIAC HSIN-CS portal will go live in early December. For more information about HSIN-CS or how to join the CIAC-HSIN-CS portal, please contact the CIAC directly at ciac@ciac.co.gov.

(U//FOUO) Interagency Chemical Biological Radiological Restoration Demonstration Project (I-CBR-RD)

- (U//FOUO) The Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) was recently selected to participate in the Interagency Chemical Biological Radiological Restoration Demonstration Project. The goal of this project is to engage interagency partners at the local, state, and regional level in an effort to increase recovery capabilities after a Chemical, Biological, or Radiological incident. Co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, project planning will begin in January 2011.

¹ (U//FOUO) *Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula Claims Responsibility for Recently Disrupted Parcel Bomb Plot and Threatens Follow-Up Attacks*. (2010). Joint Intelligence Bulletin: Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

² (U) *Mail Bombs in Athens Prompt Concerns in Germany*. (3 November, 2010). <http://www.3news.co.nz/Mail-bombs-in-Athens-prompt-concerns-in-Germany/tabid/417/articleID/184396/Default.aspx>

³ (U) U.S. State Department. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5171.html

⁴ (U//FOUO) *Mubtkar: An Improvised Cyanide Producing Device*. (2010). Department of Homeland Security.

⁵ (U//FOUO) *Potential for Small-Scale Attacks Using Toxins and Poisons*. (2010). Department of Homeland Security.

⁶ (U) The eight signs of terrorism include: surveillance, elicitation, tests of security, funding, supplies, impersonation, rehearsal, and deployment.

⁷ (U//FOUO) *The Chemical Sector: Potential Target for Attack, Theft and Diversion of Materials*. (2009). Federal Bureau of Investigation, WMD Intelligence Analysis Section and Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence & Analysis.

⁸ (U//FOUO) National Infrastructure Coordinating Center Patriot Report (21 November, 2010).

(U//FOUO) This report addresses the following CIAC Standing Information Needs: CIAC-SIN-01; CIAC-SIN-11; CIAC-SIN-19; and CIAC-SIN-21

(U//FOUO) This report addresses the following DHS Standing Information Needs: HSEC-01-00000-ST-2009; HSEC-02-00000-ST-2009; and HSEC-19-00000-ST-2009

Suspicious activity or additional information concerning the event can be reported by contacting the **Colorado Information Analysis Center by phone at 877-509-2422 or by e-mail at ciac@ciac.co.gov.**

To file a report online, visit our website at www.ciac.co.gov.