



Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP)

Private Sector User Guide



Homeland
Security

Introduction

Improvised explosive device (IED) attacks remain the primary tactic for terrorists seeking a relatively uncomplicated, inexpensive means for inflicting mass casualties and maximum damage. There is a growing concern in the law enforcement and homeland security community about the availability of precursor chemicals and materials that can be purchased legally or potentially stolen from commercial businesses. Once obtained, these materials can be used to create homemade explosives (HME) and a variety of IEDs for multiple purposes, including carrying out a terrorist attack.

The United States Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention (DHS/OBP) is sponsoring a new outreach program known as the Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP). BMAP aims to increase private sector awareness of activities associated with bomb-making, including the manufacture of HME, common explosives used in terrorist IEDs. Our Department and your local police department would like to encourage your business to participate in this important initiative.

The private sector has a significant role in helping to prevent IED attacks. It is imperative that the private sector recognize suspicious behavior and purchases that may be indicative of bomb-making activity. Bomb-making steps are generally the same regardless of an individual's appearance or ideological/religious affiliation. Effective practices in identifying suspicious behavior and purchases include both paying attention to customers and knowing what is suspicious.

As a partner in this program, law enforcement will provide you with awareness and informational materials, such as this training guide, to help you to engage and train your employees to recognize suspicious behavior that could indicate bomb-making activity. Materials explained in this handbook, such as the awareness register card and break-room poster will provide specific details on what may be considered suspicious, as well as clearly defined information as to whom to report such behavior and how to best report it. While not all suspicious purchasing behavior may be criminal or terrorist-related, BMAP will help facilitate an open exchange of information and a community security partnership between you and your local police department. Ensure that local law enforcement has provided your business with the appropriate contact information should you or any employees encounter behavior that may be suspicious.



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Threat of Hazardous Chemicals

Some commonly-used, over-the-counter products contain chemicals that in high concentrations become hazardous and unstable when combined with other chemicals.

- These mixtures form homemade explosives (HME) commonly used by terrorists, such as the HME used in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, and 2005 London mass transit bombings.



Posters should be displayed in areas frequented by business employees, such as a break or storage room, but not in areas accessible to customers or patrons.

Register cards should be displayed at or near the point-of-purchase, such as sales registers or shipping areas.

Managers or store owners should include contact information for local police and the local FBI field office on both the posters and register cards.



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Prevention Opportunities

The posters and cards display common examples of hazardous chemicals and products that utilize them.

- Both **acetone** and **hydrogen peroxide** are components of triacetone triperoxide (TATP), which was used in the 2005 London mass transit bombing. Acetone is found in solvents and nail polish removers, and hydrogen peroxide is found in pool sanitizers and hair dyes. These two chemicals brought simultaneously may indicate that an individual is constructing TATP.
- Both **ammonium nitrate** and **urea** are used as fertilizers and, when combined with other chemicals – among them, **benzene** – form a secondary high explosive. Ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) was used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, whereas urea nitrate was used in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.
- **MEKP** is a liquid explosive containing hydrogen peroxide and is used as a curing and bonding agent.
- **Hexamine**, found in fuel tablets, serves as a component of hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD), another highly unstable peroxide-based HME.
- **Strong acids** found in batteries and cleaning products serve as the third ingredient of both TATP and MEKP, among other explosives.

The posters and cards also recommend ways to help recognize and report suspicious purchases of products containing hazardous chemicals. Managers should encourage their employees to:

- Identify and familiarize themselves with the products that contain hazardous chemicals sold by their business to better recognize suspicious purchasing behavior.
- Report suspicious people or purchases, such as irregular customers or bulk purchases of products containing hazardous chemicals.
- Check their store's inventory to determine if a product is missing, which may indicate that someone has stolen the material to use in an HME, and report missing products.
- Ask customers for identification and maintain a log of large purchases to determine if a patron is stocking up on chemicals, which may indicate terrorist activity.



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Do You Buy, Sell, or Use

Hazardous Chemicals?

Over-the-counter products can contain chemicals that in high concentration or when blended with other chemicals may become hazardous and unstable. These products have been used for illicit and terrorist purposes.

What Are Common Examples?

Chemical	Common Usage
Acetone.....	Solvents, Nail Polish Remover
Hydrogen Peroxide.....	Hair Developer, Pool Sanitizers
Ammonium Nitrate.....	Fertilizer
Benzene.....	Solvents, Gasoline
MEKP.....	Curing and Bonding Agents
Urea.....	Fertilizer
Hexamine.....	Fuel Tablets
Strong Acids.....	Batteries, Cleaning Products












How Can You Help?

- Recognize hazardous chemicals in your product inventory
- Know your customers and report suspicious or unusual purchases to authorities
- Check your inventory and report missing or stolen products
- Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of large purchases

Concerned? Contact local authorities for more information:

Local Police: _____

Local FBI Office: _____

Hazardous Chemical Awareness



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Some commercial products contain chemicals that can be used for illicit or terrorist purposes. Authorities need your assistance to keep your community safe. See reverse for more information.

What can you do? Follow these simple steps:

- Recognize hazardous chemicals in your product inventory
- Know your customers and report suspicious or unusual purchases to authorities
- Check your inventory and report missing or stolen products
- Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of large purchases

Concerned? Contact local authorities for more information:

Police Department: _____

Local FBI Office: _____

Know your inventory. Be aware. Your effort makes a difference.

Hazardous Chemical Awareness



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In certain mixtures or concentration, chemicals may become hazardous and used for dangerous purpose. Do you buy, sell, or use any of the following chemicals?

Chemical	Usage
Acetone.....	Solvents, Nail Polish Remover
Hydrogen Peroxide.....	Hair Developer, Pool Sanitizers, Cleaning products
Ammonium Nitrate.....	Fertilizer
Benzene.....	Solvents, Gasoline
MEKP.....	Curing and Bonding Agents
Urea.....	Fertilizer
Hexamine.....	Fuel Tablets
Strong Acids.....	Batteries, Cleaning Products









Know your inventory. Be aware. Your effort makes a difference.



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Threat of Peroxide Products

Some commonly-used, over-the-counter products contain hydrogen peroxide in high concentrations that become hazardous and unstable when combined with other certain types of chemicals.

- These mixtures form homemade explosives (HME) commonly used by terrorists, such as the HME used in the 2005 London mass transit bombings.



Posters should be displayed in areas frequented by business employees, such as a break or storage room, but not in areas accessible to customers or patrons.

Register cards should be displayed at or near the point-of-purchase, such as sales registers or shipping areas.

Managers or store owners should include contact information for local police and local FBI field office on both the posters and register cards.



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Prevention Opportunities

The posters and cards display common examples of products that contain hydrogen peroxide, a component of many HMEs such as triacetone triperoxide (TATP), hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD), and methyl ethyl ketone peroxide (MEKP).

- **Spa and pool sanitizers**
- **Hair color developers**
- **Curing and bonding agents**
- **Household cleaning solutions**

The posters and cards also recommend ways to help recognize and report suspicious purchases of products containing hydrogen peroxide. Managers should encourage their employees to:

- Identify and familiarize themselves with the products that contain hydrogen peroxide sold by their business to better recognize suspicious purchasing behavior.
- Report suspicious people or purchases, such as irregular customers or bulk purchases of products containing hydrogen peroxide.
- Check their store's inventory to determine if a product is missing, which may indicate that someone has stolen the material to use in an HME, and report missing products.
- Ask customers for identification and maintain a log of large purchases to determine if a patron is stocking up on chemicals, which may indicate terrorist activity.



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Do You Buy, Sell, or Use Peroxide Products?

Over-the-counter products can contain hydrogen peroxide in high concentration that may become hazardous and unstable when blended with other chemicals. These mixtures have been used for illicit and terrorist purposes.

What Are Common Examples?

-  Spa and pool sanitizers
-  Hair color developers
-  Curing and bonding agents
-  Household cleaning solutions




How Can You Help?

- Recognize peroxide chemicals in your product inventory
- Know your customers and report suspicious or unusual purchases to authorities
- Check your inventory and report missing or stolen products
- Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of large purchases




 **Concerned?** Contact local authorities for more information:

Local Police: _____

Local FBI Office: _____



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Products that contain peroxides can be unstable in high concentration or when blended with other chemicals and have been used for illicit and terrorist purposes. See reverse for details.

What can you do? Follow these simple steps:

- Recognize hazardous chemicals in your product inventory
- Know your customers and report suspicious or unusual purchases to authorities
- Check your inventory and report missing or stolen products
- Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of large purchases

Concerned? Contact local authorities for more information:

Police Department: _____

Local FBI Office: _____

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What are common examples?

-  Spa and pool sanitizers
-  Hair color developers / bleachers
-  Household cleaning products
-  Specialty bonding and curing agents
-  Industrial oxidizers





Media image of high concentration hydrogen peroxide products seized by German police following raids on suspected terrorists.

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Recognition of Suspicious Behavior

Terrorists and would-be terrorists often exhibit suspicious behavior during the purchase of precursor chemicals or materials to be used in a homemade explosive (HME), an improvised explosive device (IED), or an IED-related attack.

- Focusing on behavior, rather than physical appearance, allows employees to more accurately identify suspicious activity. Bomb-making steps are generally the same regardless of an individual's appearance or ideological/religious affiliation.
- The 2007 Fort Dix plot was disrupted after an alert clerk notified police of suspicious activity recorded on a videotape that he was converting.



Posters should be displayed in areas frequented by business employees, such as a break or storage room, but not in areas accessible to customers or patrons.

Register cards should be displayed at or near the point-of-purchase, such as sales registers or shipping areas.

Managers or store owners should include contact information for local police and local FBI field office on both the posters and register cards.



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Prevention Opportunities

The posters and cards display common examples of suspicious behavior that may be a result of an individual's intention to use a store's products or services for IED-related activities.

- **Nervous or evasive customer attitudes** may indicate that an individual is worried about his or her ability to purchase the desired product or service and evade capture.
- Since many precursor chemicals and materials are dual-use, individuals planning to construct a HME may have **vague knowledge of a product's proper use** and instead know only of their usage as an explosive component.
- Individuals purchasing **unusual quantities of a product**, such as bulk purchases, may indicate the collection and storage of precursor materials to be used in HMEs.
- Individuals' **refusal to purchase substitutes** may serve as an indicator that the individual intends to use the desired product as a precursor to an HME.
- **Insistence on in-store pick-up for bulk purchases and large cash purchases** may indicate that the customer is attempting to remain anonymous to evade being traced.

The posters and cards also recommend ways to help recognize and report suspicious behavior. Managers should encourage their employees to:

- Learn and understand how their business's products and services can be used in IED-related activities.
 - For example, acetone, found in nail polish, may be used in the HME, triacetone triperoxide (TATP).
- Question customers about their intended use of a product or service and suggest alternatives in order to help determine if a customer is behaving suspiciously.
- Ask customers for identification and maintain a log of suspicious purchases to determine if a patron has a history of suspicious behavior, which may indicate terrorist activity.
- Become familiar with their customers, so that they are more likely to recognize behavior that is out of the ordinary and considered suspicious.



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Are You Aware of
Suspicious Behavior?

Businesses can become unwitting participants in illicit or terrorist activities. Be aware of unusual or suspicious purchases or usage of your products and services.

What Are Common Examples?

-  Nervous or evasive customer attitudes
-  Vague knowledge of product's proper use
-  Unusual product quantities
-  Refusal to purchase substitutes
-  Insistence on in-store pick-up for bulk purchases
-  Large cash purchases

How Can You Help?

-  Understand how your products and services may be used illicitly
-  Discuss product or service usage with customers and suggest alternatives
-  Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of suspicious purchases
-  Know your customers and report suspicious activity to authorities



CCTV captures terrorists purchasing bulk quantities of hydrogen peroxide that was used in London attacks



Surveillance footage shows terrorists moving bulk quantities of ammonium nitrate into commercial storage facilities for use in attacks



Concerned? Contact local authorities for more information:

Local Police: _____

Local FBI Office: _____

Suspicious Behavior Awareness



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Businesses can become unwitting participants in illicit or terrorist activities. Be aware of unusual or suspicious purchases or usage of your products and services. See reverse for details.

What can you do? Follow these simple steps:

-  Understand how your products and services may be used illicitly
-  Discuss product or service usage with customers and suggest alternatives
-  Ask for customer I.D. and maintain a log of suspicious purchases
-  Know your customers and report suspicious activity to authorities

Concerned? Contact local authorities for more information:

Local Police: _____

Local FBI Office: _____

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Suspicious Behavior Awareness



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What are common examples?

-  Nervous or evasive customer attitude
-  Vague knowledge of a product's proper use
-  Requests for unusual product quantities
-  Refusal to purchase or utilize recommended substitutes
-  Insistence on in-store pick-up for bulk purchases
-  Large cash purchases



CCTV captures terrorists purchasing bulk quantities of hydrogen peroxide that was used in London attacks



Surveillance footage shows terrorists moving bulk quantities of ammonium nitrate into commercial storage facilities for use in attacks

Know your customers. Be aware. Your effort makes a difference.

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