



ROLL CALL RELEASE

INTELLIGENCE FOR POLICE, FIRE, EMS, AND SECURITY PERSONNEL



22 January 2015

(U//FOUO) Terrorists Encouraging Use of Propane Cylinders as Improvised Explosive Devices

(U//FOUO) Since the May 2010 publication of the *Roll Call Release* “Terrorist Use of Propane Cylinders,” terrorists have continued to advocate the use of propane cylinders in building improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Throughout 2014, al-Qa’ida-inspired violent extremists posted on the Internet English-language instructions for building and using propane IEDs and encouraged attacks in the United States. The posts recommended military, commercial, and financial sector targets, major metropolitan areas, and mass gatherings.

(U//FOUO) IEDs incorporating propane cylinders present challenges to public safety personnel, as the cylinders are readily available to the public and can be purchased in unlimited quantities. A cylinder without modification is not an explosive device, and suspected illicit use should be evaluated within the context of other potentially incriminating circumstances. While purchase of a single or multiple propane cylinders may not necessarily indicate terrorist activity, vigilance for activities that are suspicious—according to the totality of the circumstances—may ensure first responder safety and the prevention of potential terrorist activity. In an investigative context, reasonable suspicion or probable cause should be established to preserve the integrity of an investigation. Indicators of suspicious use may include:

- » (U//FOUO) Possession of or large numbers of propane cylinders without plausible reasons.
- » (U//FOUO) Modification to or indications of tampering with pressure regulators or gauges; attempted modification and/or discoloration of the cylinder or valve.
- » (U//FOUO) Storage of propane cylinders with other pressurized and/or potentially hazardous material cylinders.
- » (U//FOUO) Presence of potential initiation/ignition sources, such as a blasting caps, electric matches, or model rocket motor igniters, electrical wires, timers, or antennas attached to or in close proximity of cylinders.
- » (U//FOUO) Presence of potential shrapnel, such as nails, bolts, or ball bearings observed in conjunction with propane cylinders.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
Threat Description	LPG Mass/Volume*	Fireball Diameter [†]	Safe Distance [‡]
Small LPG Tank	20 lbs / 5 gal (9 kg / 19 L)	40 ft (12 m)	160 ft (48 m)
<p>* (U) Based on the maximum amount of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) that could reasonably fit into a container. Variations are possible.</p> <p>[†] (U) Assuming efficient mixing of the flammable gas with ambient air.</p> <p>[‡] (U) Determined by US firefighting practices wherein safe distances are approximately four times the flame height. Note that an LPG tank filled with high explosives would require a significantly greater standoff distance than if it were filled with LPG.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Blast-safe distance for a single cylinder filled with LPG only.</p>			

(U) Additional Resources: DHS’s Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) provides additional counter-IED information sharing, capability analysis and planning support, and training resources and tools to state, local, and private sector partners to enhance their capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and mitigate bombing threats and incidents. For more information visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/obp> or contact: OBP@dhs.gov.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

IA-0095-15

(U) Prepared by the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A); FBI, Directorate of Intelligence; and National Counterterrorism Center. Coordinated with TSA, Office of Intelligence & Analysis and the National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Infrastructure Protection - Office of Bombing Prevention. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector first responders in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States.

(U) **Warning:** This document is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know without prior approval of an authorized DHS official. State and local homeland security officials may share this document with authorized critical infrastructure and key resource personnel and private sector security officials without further approval from DHS.