



Information Bulletin

White Powder Letters Similar to Letters Sent in October 2010 and May 2011

(U) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2007 an unknown subject has sent more than 360 letters containing a white, powder substance to various government officials, public schools and other locations. In May, 2011 20 letters were delivered to public schools in Washington, DC. Over the past two days similar letters have been received in Washington, DC; New York, New York; Dallas, Texas and Enfield, Connecticut.

(U//FOUO) SCOPE

The WRTAC produces Information Bulletins in response to changes in the threat environment from terrorist attacks, natural hazards, criminal developments, and other events.

(U//FOUO) EVENT OVERVIEW

A series of "white powder letters" were received in the District of Columbia in October, 2010 and May, 2011. Similar letters were received at various locations around the country March 6, 2012 and additional letters may be in the mail system pending delivery. Specially trained response teams are prepared to investigate and collect any suspicious letters.

The letters are postmarked Dallas, Texas and contain a letter with the words AL AQEDA-FBI or similar language and contain a white powder. They are typically addressed using a computer printed label.



Letter received May 5, 2011 by Terrell Elementary

(U) Indicators of Suspicious Packages and Envelopes. Suspicious packages and envelopes often have characteristics that can alert handlers or recipients to potentially harmful contents.

- Inappropriate or unusual labeling:
- Excessive postage.
- A handwritten or poorly typed address.
- Misspellings of common words.
- Strange return address or no return address.
- Incorrect title or title without a name.
- Not addressed to a specific person.
- Marked with restrictions, such as “Personal,” “Confidential,” or “Do not X-ray.”
- Marked with threatening, insulting, or disparaging language.
- Postmarked from a city or state that does not match the return address.

(U) Appearance:

- Powdery substance felt through or visible on the package or envelope.
- Oily stains, discolorations, or odor.
- Lopsided or uneven envelope.
- Excessive packaging material such as masking tape or string.
- Other suspicious signs:
- Excessive weight.
 - Ticking sound.
 - Protruding wires or aluminum foil.

(U) Handling of Suspicious Packages or Envelopes. Recommended steps for handling suspicious packages and envelopes include the following:

- Do not shake or empty the contents.
- Do not carry, show others, or allow unqualified or unauthorized individuals to examine the item.
- Put the item on a stable surface; do not sniff, touch, taste, or look closely at it or at any contents that may have spilled.
- Alert others in the area. Leave the area, close any doors, and take actions to prevent others from entering the area. If possible, shut off the ventilation system.
- Wash hands with soap and water to prevent spread of potentially infectious material to face or skin. Seek additional instructions for exposed or potentially exposed persons.
- At work, notify a supervisor, security officer, or law enforcement official; if at home, contact the local law enforcement agency.
- If possible, create a list of persons who were in the room or area when the suspicious letter or package was recognized and a list of persons who may have handled it. Give the lists to local public health authorities and law enforcement officials.

(U) Initial Response. The initial response to suspicious letters or packages will generally be determined on a case-by-case basis. Scenarios that may be encountered include a letter or package that contains:

- Unidentified powder and threatening communication.
- An articulated threat, but no powder detected.
- An unknown powder, but no articulated threat.
- No apparent powder, no articulated threat, but recipient displays illness.
- No powder, no threat, and no illness, but recipient is suspicious for other reasons