



WMD OPERATIONS UNIT

(U//LES) WMDOU MONTHLY BULLETIN APRIL 2011

THIS INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED WITH STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE WMD COORDINATOR AT YOUR LOCAL FBI FIELD OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

(U) LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE: THE INFORMATION MARKED (U//LES) IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND MAY BE DISTRIBUTED WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (AND ITS CONTRACTORS), U.S. INTELLIGENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY OR PROTECTION OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH A NEED TO KNOW. DISTRIBUTION BEYOND THESE ENTITIES WITHOUT FBI AUTHORIZATION IS PROHIBITED. PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THIS INFORMATION IS STORED AND/OR DESTROYED IN A MANNER THAT PRECLUDES UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS. INFORMATION BEARING THE LES CAVEAT MAY NOT BE USED IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WITHOUT FIRST RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FROM THE ORIGINATING AGENCY. [RECIPIENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM SUBSEQUENTLY POSTING THE INFORMATION MARKED LES ON A WEBSITE ON AN UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK].

WMD THREAT AWARENESS

(U//LES) Attempted Purchase of Respirators Using Fraudulent Credit Card Accounts

(U//LES) In March 2011, multiple identified U.S. companies received requests to purchase 3M Full Facepiece 6000 Series and Half Facepiece 6000 Series respirators and 3M 6003 cartridges. According to the respirators' user manuals, the 3M 6003 cartridges are appropriate for use in organic vapor/acid gas environments.ⁱ



Figure 1: 3M 6000 Series Full Facepiece Respirator with attached cartridges.

(U//LES) On 03/16/2011, a branch manager for a U.S. based company notified local police of a suspicious attempted purchase of "hundreds" of 3M respirators through the use of several different credit cards. The individual placed on order for 120 3M Half Facepiece Respirator 6200 Series. The individual provided three different credit card application approval forms with a different billing address on each form. Investigation revealed that the provided addresses of the companies ordering the respirators were in fact private residences. The owners of the residences denied knowledge of knowing the individual who had placed the orders.



Figure 2: 3M 6000 Series Half Facepiece Respirators w/o cartridges

(U//LES) Another U.S. based company in Greenville, SC received an order for 15 cases of 3M 8210 Particulate Respirators and 5 cases of 3M 6003 Cartridges via the company's web site. The order was placed using two different credit card numbers; the credit card addresses given were from Seattle, WA but the individual wanted the material shipped to

an address in Sunfield, MI. The individual would not complete and sign the company's credit authorization form and only wanted to send the information via email. The credit manager refused the sale and called the credit card company to find both card numbers given did not match the address and name provided. Initial checks on the address in Sunfield, MI revealed the name listed with the address does not appear on residence information associated with that address.



Figure 3: 3M Particulate Respirator 8210

¹ 3M's 6000 Series Full Facepiece Respirators come in three sizes: Small 6700/07138, Medium 6800/07139, and Large 6900/07140.

¹ Online publication; <http://solutions.3m.com>; 3M Full Facepiece Respirator 6000 Series User Manual; 7 April 2011; company provided user manual

REPORTING TRENDS

(U) Suspicious Incidents at Various Infrastructure Locations

(U) The FBI frequently receives reporting regarding individuals taking photographs of various infrastructures, including refineries and nuclear power stations. Most of these reports resolve to the individual having no nefarious intent. The following incidents are not all-inclusive of all suspicious incidents but represent a portion of incidents of interest:

- **(U//LES)** On 04/01/2011, the Burlington, VT JTTF was contacted by Security at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon, VT. Security advised they observed a "well dressed Asian male" taking photos of the power plant for approximately ten minutes shortly before 1600 hours. They further advised it appeared the man changed camera lenses multiple times while taking the photos. Before the man could be identified by security he drove away.
- **(U//LES)** On 04/05/2011, an unknown white male was observed taking photos of the Flint Hills Resources refinery in Corpus Christi, TX; he was located near the west plant, gate number four area at the end of the fence line. Flint Hills Resources is an independent refining and chemicals company that refines fuels, petrochemicals, asphalt, oil, commercial lubricants, sealants and coatings.
- **(U//LES)** On 04/09/2011, the FBI received information from the Perry Nuclear Power Plant Security Supervisor that a resident in the area had made threats to blow up a nearby bar and claimed to have fertilizer and diesel fuel. In addition, the same resident commented how easy it would be to blow up Perry Nuclear Power Plant. An interview with the resident revealed the comments were made under the influence of alcohol.
- **(U//LES)** On 04/26/2011, an identified individual arrived at the main gate of the Morgantown Generator Station for new employee orientation. The new employee presented a Tennessee issued identification card to satisfy the access control

requirements; however, the security staff observed a number of inconsistencies on the ID when compared to the U.S. Identification Manual. Due to the suspicious nature of the credential presented and inability to provide a U.S. government issued ID to satisfy the facility's access control requirements, access was denied. An employee was assigned to escort the individual out of the facility grounds, followed by the security staff. The individual was dropped off at the entrance to the facility, where a blue dodge caravan was parked. He departed the facility as the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle. It was discovered that this individual was also denied facility access on 03/15/2011 after presenting credentials that were deemed suspicious by the security staff.

(U) Suspicious Chemical Incidents

(U) The following incidents are not all-inclusive of all reporting regarding suspicious chemical incidents/purchase but represent a portion of incidents of interest:

- **(U//LES)** On 04/01/2011, FBI New Haven received information from a private chemical supplier regarding a suspicious request from an identified online customer. The customer requested to purchase 250 grams of Methyl 1-4,6 dinitrophenol and have it shipped to an address in Garland, TX. Open source searches for the chemical indicate the material is toxic and considered a poison with a relatively low lethal dose of 5-50mg/kg.

(U//LES) Analytic Comment: The FBI Laboratory assessed that the chemical can be used legitimately as a blossom-thinning agent for fruit trees or as a contact insecticide or herbicide. However, the amount requested could pose life-threatening health hazards to a significant number of individuals if employed as a poison or if handled improperly.

- **(U//LES)** On 04/03/2011, a burglary occurred at the Salt Lake Valley Health Department Landfill in which several items were reported missing including several cases of Hydrofluoric Acid in 8 pint bottles, tool sets, computer equipment, paper towels, and novelty lighters.

(U//LES) Analytic Comment: According to the FBI Laboratory, Hydrogen fluoride (Hydrofluoric acid) is a colorless, fuming gas or liquid that is very corrosive and poisonous. It is toxic by ingestion and inhalation; it is a strong irritant to the eyes, skin, and mucous membranes. It is used as an additive in liquid rocket propellants, etching glass, acidizing oil wells, gasoline production, and refining uranium. It is also used as an analytical reagent.

- **(U//LES)** On 04/09/2011, a named US company in Chicago received an inquiry from Sanco Trading FZE in UAE into the purchase of magnesium oxide crucibles, an export controlled item.

(U//LES) Analytic Comment: Magnesium oxide (CAS [1309-48-4], MgO, MW = 40.3 g/mol) is a fine, odorless, hygroscopic white powder in its pure form. It is a

common ingredient in glass, rubber, heat-resistant ceramics and cements, and can be used as an antacid. Of note, however, is that magnesium oxide can be used to pack around transuranic nuclear waste, (which includes americium-241 and several isotopes of plutonium), for long-term storage. The water-absorbing and buffering properties of magnesium oxide can prevent the leaching of water-soluble radionuclides into the environment. Magnesium oxide is used in this capacity at the US Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

- (U//LES) On 04/18/2011, the U.S. Secret Service reported a telephone call from a Jacksonville, FL area pool supply store indicating the sale of seven (7) 40-lb pound buckets of chlorine to a known individual. The store representative indicated that one bucket should last between 12 and 18 months, so the purchase of seven buckets by an individual seemed suspicious. The full name of the chemical sold was trichloro-s-triazinetrione.

(U) Additional Incidents WMD/Explosives Related

(U) The following incidents are not all-inclusive of all WMD reporting but represent a portion of incidents of interest:

- (U//LES) On 04/07/2011, a Farm Service Center in Weimer, TX informed a Houston Task Force Officer that an unknown male had attempted to purchase ammonium nitrate last week. When told they did not sell ammonium nitrate, the customer stated that he possessed a Demolition Explosives License. The customer was told to try another farm supply store in Giddings, Texas, as they sell ammonium nitrate. The customer reportedly did not appear nervous, but was not a local customer. A second employee stated that the customer wore cargo green pants and a white shirt, described as military. When the customer was asked about Urea, he responded, "Urea would not work." Customer stated that he puts on demonstrations for the military. These demonstrations include the use of over the counter material to make bombs. Customer said he was referred to their business by an employee of a propane company. Customer bought thirty feet of solid stock pipe that he said was needed to attach to a fifty gallon drum and use the contraption to make a mixer.

(U//LES) Analytic Comment: Urea is a common fertilizer, and a precursor for the explosive urea nitrate by combining it with nitric acid. Urea nitrate was utilized in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Ammonium nitrate fertilizer has been used on several occasions as an improvised explosive by mixing it with a fuel, such as diesel fuel or nitromethane. Ammonium nitrate typically comes in a prill form and is mixed with a fuel oil, such as diesel. The liquid fuel soaks into the prill to form an explosive mixture. The optimal amount of fuel oil is 6 percent by weight. Ammonium nitrate/fuel oil, ANFO, typically requires the use of a booster charge to properly initiate.

- **(U//LES)** On 04/08/2011, the FBI received an email tip from a named U.S. company in Wisconsin that they received an inquiry from Chemical House of Pakistan to purchase DNA/RNA sample preparation kits of several select agents to prepare Bio-Rad thermal cyclers to isolate infectious agents using real time PCR identification. The U.S. company deals in fermentation of bacteria for animal feed and environmental issues and replied to the query that they did not manufacture the preparation kits. The U.S. company further indicated they periodically receive requests for pathogens from overseas countries.
- **(U//LES)** On 04/10/2011 at approximately 1300, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in the Children's Clothing Department of the Belk's Department Store at the Colonial Mall at Glynn Place, Brunswick, Georgia. The detonation caused no injuries but resulted in several thousand dollars worth of damage to the store. The IED consisted of a "chemical bomb" placed inside a backpack. Witnesses indicated two white male juveniles may have been responsible for the detonation. According to the Glynn County Georgia Police Department (GCPD), the incident is similar to others in the area and the GCPD is currently investigating the detonation of a similar device in a residential neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia. An interview of the juveniles indicated that the "chemical bomb" was made in a plastic bottle by combining tin foil and toilet cleaner.

WMDOU COMMENTS

- THE WMDOU BULLETIN IS MEANT TO PROVIDE FBI WMDCS WITH A BULLETIN THAT THEY MAY SUBSEQUENTLY SHARE WITH THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS.

CONTACT

- **Please contact your local FBI WMD Coordinator.**
-