



**Homeland  
Security**

Office of Intelligence and Analysis



**Federal Bureau  
of Investigation**

REFERENCE AID

8 January 2015

## (U) Indicators of Suspicious Activity: Commercially Available Homemade Explosives and Methamphetamine Precursors

*(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and the FBI's Directorate of Intelligence-Weapons of Mass Destruction Analysis Section. Coordinated with the National Protection and Programs Directorate's Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis, FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center, Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, National Counterterrorism Center, and Drug Enforcement Agency.*

### (U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This joint DHS and FBI Homeland Security Reference Aid provides basic, nonperishable information and context on possible indicators of suspicious activity for commercially available homemade explosive and methamphetamine precursors that, when left unattended, may be observable by workers during normal day-to-day activity. We are providing this information to federal, state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement and private sector security partners to help them better report such situations and contribute to overall US government efforts to detect, deter, and defeat criminal meth and terrorist HME production within the Homeland.

### (U) Definitions

*(U) The Functional Standard v. 1.5 defines Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) as "official documentation of observed behavior reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning related to terrorism or other criminal activity."*

*(U) Only Information Sharing Environment (ISE)-SARs that meet the ISE-SAR definition are permitted into the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative Shared Space. The ISE-SAR definition in the Functional Standard v. 1.5 is a SAR that is "reasonably indicative of criminal activity associated with terrorism."*

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# Indicators of Suspicious Activity: Commercially Available Methamphetamine Precursors

## Hotel Room Scenario

The ingredients used to make methamphetamine (meth) are generally commercially available products that by themselves present little danger, but these materials can ignite, explode or release toxic gases if mixed or stored improperly. Labs can exist indoors or outdoors, in houses, apartment buildings, motels, vehicles, wooded areas, or fields. This scenario depicts commercially available materials that may be encountered in hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments that could be an indicator of meth production. While the detection of any one of these materials should not be seen as an indicator of meth production, the detection of multiple items, especially if encountered in large quantity or involving both equipment and items not often found in a lodging establishment, should be seen as suspicious and reported immediately.

### COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PRECURSORS NOT OFTEN FOUND IN LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Gasoline additives
2. Paint thinner, degreaser
3. Brake fluid
4. Lighter fluid
5. Antifreeze
6. Engine starting fluid
7. Rock salt

### COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PRECURSORS COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED IN LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS

8. First aid antiseptic
9. Rubbing alcohol, mouthwash
10. Cold and allergy medications
11. Strike plate from matchbook covers
12. Instant cold/ice packs

### EQUIPMENT USED TO MAKE METH

13. Written recipes
14. Hot plate/heat source
15. Hypodermic syringes
16. Glassware (mason jars, beakers, bottles)
17. Gas can
18. Rubber gloves
19. Funnels

### ITEMS NOT DEPICTED

- Lithium batteries
- Stained tubing
- Chemical fertilizer
- Coffee grinder with white powder residue
- Coffee filters with red/brown stains
- Sheet or pillow case with red/brown stains
- Plastic soda bottles containing salt
- Highway flares
- Hydrochloric acid/muriatic acid



Colors depicted are used to assist in identifying and locating possible precursor materials arranged within the graphic.

\*This graphic is unclassified when separated.  
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# Indicators of Suspicious Activity: Commercially Available Explosives Precursors

## Hotel Room Scenario

Locations that provide privacy and lack law enforcement visibility can be exploited by individuals seeking to create homemade explosives (HME). The ingredients used to make HME are generally household products that by themselves present little danger but when combined can have serious toxic and explosive effects. This scenario depicts household items that may be encountered in hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments that could be an indicator of HME production. While the detection of any one of these materials should not be seen as an indicator of HME production, the detection of multiple items, especially if encountered in large quantity or involving both equipment and items not often found in a lodging establishment, should be seen as suspicious and reported immediately.

### COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PRECURSORS NOT OFTEN FOUND IN LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Gasoline, kerosene, diesel
2. Coal, charcoal
3. Paint remover
4. Antifreeze
5. Rust remover, cement and brick cleaner
6. Solvent, paint thinner
7. Food preservative
8. Fertilizer
9. Flaked or powdered metals
10. Car batteries
11. Black powder, saltpeter, or powder stump remover
12. Camp stove fuel

### ITEMS NOT DEPICTED

- Food additive, water softener, powdered drinks
- Herbicide
- Containers of ice
- Ball bearings
- Rebar

### COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PRECURSORS COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED IN LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS

Large quantities of these items may be an indicator of an ulterior use.

13. Nail polish remover
14. Hobby fuels
15. Disinfectant, bleaching agents, hair products, and alcohol
16. Fireworks/pyrotechnics
17. Instant cold/ice packs
18. Match heads

### EQUIPMENT USED TO MAKE EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS

19. Filter, funnel
20. Glassware
21. Bucket, plasticware
22. Dust/vapor mask
23. Mortar & pestle
24. Rubber gloves, goggles
25. Pressure cooker



Colors depicted are used to assist in identifying and locating possible precursor materials arranged within the graphic.

\*This graphic is unclassified when separated.  
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**(U) Source Summary Statement**

(U//FOUO) The information in this Reference Aid was derived from multiple, publicly-available, reliable sources.

**(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, call 855-TELL-FBI, or directly 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>.

**(U) Administrative Note**

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this intelligence bulletin is for official use only. No portion of this bulletin should be released to the media, the general public, or over non-secure Internet servers. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Analysis Section by e-mail HQ-DIV23-INTEL-COORDINATION-UNIT@ic.fbi.gov or the I&A Production Branch by e-mail at IA.PM@hq.dhs.gov.

**(U) Tracked by:** HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.6, HSEC-8.8.1



# Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

## Customer Feedback Form

Product Title: (U) Indicators of Suspicious Activity: Commercially Available Homemade Explosives and Methamphetamin

1. Please select partner type:  and function: 2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive? 3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:" 

4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's relevance to your mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's timeliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? (Check all that apply.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate a law enforcement investigation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats   | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate your own regional-specific analysis   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share with partners   | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate your own topic-specific analysis      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop long-term homeland security strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reprioritize organizational focus   | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to use                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Author or adjust policies and guidelines  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>                    |

6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product.

7. What did this product not address that you anticipated it would?

8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
This product will enable me to make better decisions regarding this topic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This product provided me with intelligence information I did not find elsewhere.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. How did you obtain this product? 10. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up conversation about your feedback? 

To help us understand more about your organization so we can better tailor future products, please provide:

Name: <input type="text"/>	Position: <input type="text"/>
Organization: <input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text"/>
Contact Number: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>

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