IED Manufacturing Components

SCOPE: This interactive product for public safety personnel is intended to aid in visual recognition and establish a baseline understanding of materials and equipment associated with manufacturing Homemade Explosives (HME)/Improvised Explosives (IE) or constructing IEDs. Given the variety of commercial list of materials available for manufacturing HME/IE or constructing IEDs, this material list should not be considered all-inclusive.

FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS:

First responders are in a unique position within their communities and may encounter suspicious activities, items, or behaviors associated with the manufacture of HME/IE and IEDs. Their ability to recognize indicators of explosives production (HME/IE and IED precursors, components, and materials) may disrupt attack planning and remains a critical component in suspicious activity reporting for further vetting. First responders should continue to be mindful of all aspects of detection, including the identification of common HME/IE precursors and IED components, locations where these items may be found, and their legitimate use.

- Many HME/IE are similar in appearance. Always seek authorized expert assistance in identifying suspected HME/IE and associated hazards.
- Once the presence of suspected or verified explosives, precursor materials, or IED components is confirmed at a scene, it is important to treat anything suspicious as if it has the potential to cause injury and act accordingly. Responsive explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), public-safety bomb squad, or hazardous materials (HAZMAT) units will want to interview personnel who discovered the items for accurate details, such as how the scene was entered, where items were located, and the presence of clutter, to provide them insights into how to best handle the situation.
- The IED makers' efforts to gain experience with explosive devices have the potential to create suspicious activity, including the acquisition, transportation, and storage of components and precursor materials. In addition, manufacturing HME/IE or constructing IEDs may result in recognizable injuries to individuals experimenting with precursor materials. Scene size-up and patient assessment provide first responders with the opportunity to ensure the reported explanation correlates with the device that caused injury.
- A suspected HME/IE laboratory may contain other explosives and booby traps. DO NOT touch, move, or remove suspicious chemicals or materials, as handling may cause injury, damage, and contaminate forensic evidence.

UNDERSTANDING THE INDICATORS:

Public safety may hinge on recognition and reporting of suspicious colocation of the precursors and components. The items pictured in the accompanying image have legitimate commercial uses, are legal, mostly unregulated, and may be used for entirely innocent activity absent additional indicators or behaviors reasonably indicative of terrorism. However, these items may also be used to manufacture HME/IE or construct IEDs, which make it challenging to detect malicious efforts to develop explosives without considering the totality of the circumstances.

CONTAINER: Plastic and glass containers, mortar and pestle, cookware and laboratory glass with residue

- Manufacturing equipment will depend on the HME/IE. The equipment may be scientific, simplistic, or improvised to provide grinding, mixing, stirring, distilling, filtering and cooling capability.

RESOURCES

HOME

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AUTHORED BY NCTC, DHS, AND FBI

JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM ASSESSMENT TEAM | JCAT

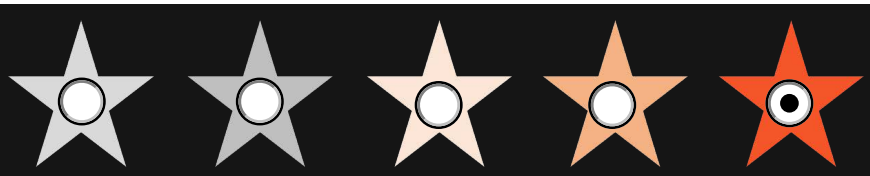
PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

NAME and/or ORG:

DISCIPLINE: ☐ LE ☐ FIRE ☐ EMS ☐ HEALTH ☐ ANALYSIS ☐ PRIVATE SECTOR DATE:

PRODUCT TITLE: IED Manufacturing Components

POOR  GREAT

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS. HOW DOES JCAT MAKE PRODUCTS BETTER?

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

SUBMIT