

Science and the FBI

The FBI recognizes the importance of scientific progress, as well as the development and peaceful dissemination of technology. We work hard to ensure our efforts do not impede scientific research. It is our intent, in partnership with the scientific and academic community, to help protect the United States.

Mutually beneficial relationships require open lines of communication to ensure understanding and to identify opportunities for collaboration. The FBI has WMD Coordinators located in all 56 field offices across the United States. Your WMD Coordinator will help you become more aware of potential chemical WMD threats and develop a plan with you to report suspicious activities. We hope to benefit from your knowledge of emerging trends and technologies to prevent a chemical attack.



How Can I Help?

- Distribute FBI materials to help faculty, students, and lab personnel increase their awareness of chemical terrorism.
- Help the FBI identify possible vulnerabilities within the chemical academic sector.
- Encourage open discussion about potential chemical threats and report suspicious behavior or events to your local FBI WMD Coordinator.

For More Information

FBI offices are located in major cities throughout the United States, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and abroad. In addition, resident agencies are maintained in smaller cities and towns across the country. The FBI encourages the public to report any suspicious activity and suspected violations of the US Federal law. You can do so by calling your local FBI office, Legal Attaché (LEGAT) office, or by submitting a tip via the FBI Tips and Public Leads at www.fbi.gov

Telephone: 202.324.3777

E-mail: chemteam@fbi.gov

Website: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/wmd>

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Weapons of Mass
Destruction Directorate

Academic Chemical Security



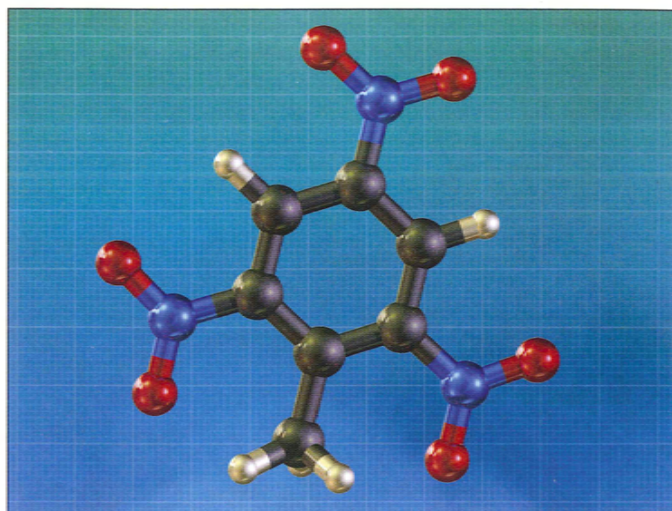


Why Outreach?

Many extremist individuals and terrorist groups have expressed the intent to attack the United States using chemical weapons and improvised explosives. University laboratories, various Internet sources, chemical suppliers, and retail stores that house or sell chemical precursors are potential sources of information, skills, tools, and materials required to carry out such an attack.

Faculty, students, researchers, and laboratory personnel need to be aware of these threats and understand the warning signs of being targets for the exploitation of knowledge, skills, or acquisition of tools or materials needed to make a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Awareness of suspicious behavior indicators can lead to early detection of nefarious activity.

The FBI's Chemical Academic Outreach Program is designed to educate faculty, students, and staff about the FBI's WMD mission, its capabilities, and its chemical counterterrorism initiatives.



Chemical Threats

A chemical attack is the deliberate use of chemical materials such as toxic industrial chemicals, chemical warfare agents, and improvised explosives that can be used to harm people, plants, animals, and our country's critical infrastructure. Individuals who intend to carry out attacks using a chemical or improvised explosive device need to know what you and your colleagues already know:

- how to acquire chemicals and glassware
- how to handle chemicals safely
- how to follow chemical synthesis procedures
- how to purify and disseminate the resulting chemical agent

Individuals may contact you to obtain technical chemical information through e-mail and online chat rooms, or they may approach you at conferences to ask seemingly innocent questions about your research. While most of these questions will be legitimate or innocent, there is a risk some are not and may indicate a potential threat. Other indicators of potential threats include suspicious behavior in the laboratory or missing supplies and chemicals.

What Should I Be Aware of?

- Individuals attempting to access the laboratory who generally have no reason to be there
- Missing supplies, chemicals or lost or moved laboratory equipment
- Requests to borrow chemicals or equipment from unidentified individuals
- Unsolicited requests for technical information in person or over the Internet
- Unusual employment or collaboration requests
- Chemical purchases charged to a lab purchase card or grant but are never delivered
- Unsolicited delivery of chemicals to the lab without a corresponding chemical purchase

