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In Collaboration with the JCAT
FOR POLICE, FIRE, EMS, and SECURITY PERSONNEL



28 June 2013

(U//FOUO) Fireworks as an Improvised Explosive Device Component

(U//FOUO) Recent incidents in the Homeland demonstrate that consumer fireworks—widely used during the upcoming 4 July 2013 celebrations—can be misused by criminals and violent extremists to construct improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Consumer fireworks are defined as devices that produce audible and visible effects by combustion, containing between 50-130 milligrams of explosive material. They are banned in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York.



(U) Recovered Fireworks-Boston
April 2013

- » (U//FOUO) Fireworks were recovered in a backpack belonging to one of the suspects in the 15 April 2013 attack on the Boston Marathon, according to a federal complaint.
- » (U//FOUO) Consumer fireworks components were recovered from a complex IED on 20 July 2012 during a search of the apartment of the suspect in the Aurora, Colorado theater shooting, according to court records.
- » (U//FOUO) The IEDs used in the 1 May 2010 attack in Times Square incorporated a large number of consumer fireworks.

(U//FOUO) The indicators listed below may be, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

- » (U) Purchasing unusually large quantities of fireworks in a manner inconsistent with lawful use or during off-season months;
- » (U) Expressing interest in harvesting the materials from fireworks;
- » (U) Inquiring at a level beyond mere curiosity about the potential damage fireworks could cause, such as making inquiries about using fireworks to propel fragmentation;
- » (U) Evidence of disassembly of fireworks, such as discarded empty containers with no signs of burning.

(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 or 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>.

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(U) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Homeland Counterterrorism Division, Terrorist Targets and Tactics Branch and the FBI National Explosives Task Force. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector first responders in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting and responding to terrorist attacks against the United States. Coordinated with the DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Infrastructure Protection; Office of Bombing Prevention; and the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT).

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