BACKGROUND

Homemade Explosives (HME), also categorized as energetic materials and precursors materials, pose a formidable threat to a variety of response agencies, and as a result have developed into a public safety concern. Although these items appear innocuous, in the wrong hands they can be manufactured and used for a number of nefarious purposes. This document offers a list of potential protective measures which can be implemented to reduce risks and vulnerabilities upon encountering these materials.

SCOPE

This document highlights a methodical process for raising awareness and citing indicators of HME manufacturing. Furthermore, it outlines precautions and immediate actions to employ if suspected HME material or processing a facility has been encountered. This phased approach is recommended for reducing risk, vulnerabilities as well as threat mitigation.

PHASE 1- Pre-Event Planning/Awareness
PHASE 2- Site Assessment
PHASE 4- Immediate Action/Response
PHASE 5- Post Event/Analysis

Pre-Event Planning/Awareness

- Raise awareness through HME education and training
- Emphasize risk and danger for various materials and potential reactionary capabilities
- Center awareness efforts on entities who can impact communities through their organizations and their roles, specifically public safety response agencies
- Provide advisories and training to select private industry sectors
- Conduct an aggressive awareness campaign to schools and the education systems K-12, and institutes of higher learning
- Cite specific baseline products that can be easily obtained (e.g. peroxide, fertilizer, chlorine etc.) by local Subject Matter Experts
- Advise constituency that methamphetamine laboratories and HME factories can easily be

mistaken; ensure constituency is aware of the similarities and indicators

Site Assessment

- When a suspected HME material is encountered do not touch or disturb it in any way
- Do not alter the surrounding environment
- Do not introduce any energy to the immediate area, electricity, phones, lighters etc.
- Notify anyone in the immediate area not to approach the site
- Advise others in the area to evacuate the site
- Be vigilant of any other hazards encountered in the area (e.g. acids, gasoline, gas lines etc.)
- Notify for the Bomb Squad
- Notify Hazardous Materials Unit
- Be cognizant of and remember the characteristics of the materials encountered
- Be attentive of peculiarities at the site (e.g. power sources, wires, mats, switches etc.) any items that suggests the site or materials could be booby trapped.
- Remember the approach used to enter the area/facility, and use the same approach to depart

Immediate Actions/Response

- When a suspected HME material is identified in any form, or an explosives factory is encountered do not touch or disturb it
- Safely move as far away from the site as possible
- Position yourself behind adequate frontal and overhead cover if available
- Notify proper authorities
- Advise authorities which direction and/or path you used for your approach to the site
- For the initial responder on scene, establish a minimum perimeter of no less than 300 ft.
- Responders who may come in contact with HME materials should exercise personal universal precautions (e.g. gloves, footwear cover and eye and respiratory protection)
- Be mindful of potential fire hazards
- Be prepared for emergency extraction due to existing hazards

Post Event/Analysis

- Ensure proper documenting and photographing of the materials is conducted
- Advise public in the immediate area of dangers of HME and subsequent hazards of precursors and by-products
- Conduct full After Actions Report
- Implement lessons learned