



OPERATION SAFEGUARD
PROPANE TANKS COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

As described in the accompanying letter, *Operation SAFEGUARD* is based on the idea that certain legitimate businesses and industries may be unknowingly exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain material, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information can possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Propane Tanks Compressed Gas Cylinders, though not fully inclusive, may be of *possible* concern to law enforcement:

- The theft or attempted theft of propane tanks from your business inventory or delivery supplier.
- The theft or attempted theft of equipment (i.e., canisters, respirators, special canister wrenches, etc.) and/or a transport vehicle for propane.
- Customer requests to purchase or refill unusual amounts of propane not typical of most transactions or an unusual method of payment.
- Unusual inquiries from individuals concerning how you store propane or handle it at your facility.

- Apparent surveillance of your facility or business by unknown persons monitoring the arrival and/or departure of propane delivery trucks.
- Reports by employees of unknown persons observed trespassing on your property or taking photographs of your facility or equipment.
- Reports by employees of being questioned by suspicious individuals as to their routine or activities.
- Suspicious individuals looking for employment involving the transportation or delivery of propane.
- Unusual inquiries of an individual(s) regarding the use, types, combustibility and destruction capability of compressed gasses particularly acetylene, butane, and propane.
- Unusual inquiries of an individual(s) regarding the mixture of chemicals that could potentially cause a fuel-air cloud and the detonation of an explosion.

Suggested Protective Measures:

- Maintain high accountability of all compressed gas tanker transport vehicles including departure and destination verification.
- Change and vary delivery routes for compressed gas deliveries.
- Verify account information and location prior to delivery of compressed gas.
- Verify new user and delivery account during high threat periods.
- Ensure all compressed gas cylinders are properly secured.
- Restrict access to key operational facilities such as tank farms, docks, and terminals.
- Report unusual deliveries to locations including but not limited to residential addresses, unusual or non-routine storage facilities or other atypical delivery locations.

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern or set of circumstances is unusual. Please remember that the conduct itself does not have to be criminal per se for you to report it to the NY State Toll-Free Tips line. It may be contacted 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling:

1-866-SAFE-NYS.