



# DOJ



# DHS










## *Industry Advisory*

# **Black Powder, Black Powder Substitutes, & Smokeless Powder**





These products are commonly used as bomb-making materials. The U.S. Government is asking industry members to familiarize themselves with behaviors that may indicate intent for unlawful use and to report suspicious activity.

### ***What Are Potential Indicators?***

-  Asking questions that do not seem relevant to the lawful use of these products.
-  Inability to answer questions regarding the intended lawful use (such as the type of cartridge being reloaded or for use in antique firearms).
-  Expressing interest in bomb-making or engaging in violent activity.
-  Displaying injuries consistent with experimentation with explosives such as missing fingers or scarring, discoloration, or burns on skin.
-  Insisting on paying cash or using another person's credit card.
-  Making large and/or multiple purchases within a short period of time.
-  Behaving nervously, shifting gaze, attempting to avoid cameras, or wearing a conspicuous disguise.



### ***How Can You Help?***

-  **Be aware! Your efforts make a difference.**
-  **Talk to customers, ask questions, and observe behavior.**
-  **Report suspicious or unusual purchases to management and authorities.**
-  **Inform authorities of: a physical description, a vehicle description, license plates, identification numbers, or credit card information.**

### **Incident Statistics**

Each year in the U.S.:

- Hundreds are killed or injured by explosive devices.
- Over 500 incidents involve black powder, black powder substitutes, and smokeless powder.

Source: U.S. Bomb Data Center (July 29, 2013)

## **Report Suspicious Activity**

**To report suspicious activity, call 9-1-1 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.

The behavioral activities described as possible indicators of terrorism could be just as indicative of lawful, innocent conduct and, in some instances, may constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. For these reasons, the indicators should be considered in the context of other suspicious behavior and the totality of the circumstances in which they are observed or reported.