

General Indicators of Homemade Explosive (HME) Labs for First Responders

Emergency Service Personnel should be aware of potential precursor materials that could possibly indicate a lab for suspicious HME/bomb-making activity. HME/bomb-making labs use common household chemicals that together in bulk should be considered suspicious. Below is additional information concerning HME Labs.

- All HMEs are sensitive to heat, shock, friction, and electrostatic discharge; sensitivity will vary based on the type of explosive.
- HMEs can be made from commonly available commercial chemicals with relatively minimal effort.
- HMEs can be made by physically mixing ingredients or by chemically reacting ingredients.
- For some HMEs, when the ingredients chemically react, small crystalline solids form that settle to the bottom of the container.
- Some sensitive HMEs may be manufactured in a cold and/or frigid water bath or kept in a refrigerator or freezer to prevent explosion.
- HME Labs closely resemble clandestine narcotic labs consisting of the same chemicals, acids, bases and lab equipment.

General HME/Bomb-making Indicators

- Large amounts of chemical precursors
- Plans, recipes, schematics, formulas & extremist literature
- Disassembled electrical components
- Heating plates, ice baths, lab equipment
- Unusual fumes, chemical odors, unidentified powders
- Pipe sections, pressure cookers or other potential bomb containers
- Counter surveillance measures such as unusual & excessive CCTV feeds of the surrounding property



1. **If you think you have found an HME, DO NOT HANDLE**
2. **Secure the scene immediately**
3. **Retreat & contact command ASAP from a safe distance away**

Examples of HME Labs and Precursors



Report Any Suspicious Activity to

New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline

1-866-SAFE-NYS

(1-866-723-3697)

All calls are toll free and will remain strictly confidential.

or



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