



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 8, 2020

Release of New CISA Insights on Increased Geopolitical Tensions and Threats

(US-CERT) Monday, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued a CISA Insights document entitled, "Increased Geopolitical Tensions and Threats" pertaining to the increased tension with Iran. You can read the new CISA Insights at [CISA.gov/insights](https://www.cisa.gov/insights).

As the Nation's risk advisor, CISA is sharing this to ensure you consider how increased geopolitical tensions and threats of aggression might affect you—such as retaliatory cyber and physical attacks. As you read these insights, we hope they assist in how you look at yourself, your facilities, and your operations from the outside-in. Knowing how you may be exposed or targeted will help you to be better prepared (to act, collaborate, and report).

As always, we need to hear from you on whether these insights make a difference and what else you recommend for infrastructure resilience, safety of personnel, and protection of the greater public—collective defense works best when we share what works, communicate, and coordinate. Contact us via cisaservicedesk@cisa.dhs.gov or your local [CISA field representative](#).

Stay vigilant, stay connected, and help us—[If You See Something, Say Something](#). For useful tips, resources and information about our offerings, and how to reach us and report information, please visit [CISA.gov](https://www.cisa.gov).

US DHS BMAP Special Advisory Bulletin Iranian-Inspired Terrorism Threat

January 8, 2020

SCOPE: In the wake of the recent strike in Iraq that killed Iranian IRGC-Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani, DHS [National Terrorism Threat Advisory Bulletin](#), issued 4 January 2020, provided a summary of the terrorism threat to the US Homeland. While no information indicating a specific, credible threat to the Homeland was assessed, the terrorism summary acknowledged the intent and capability of the Iranian Government, their proxies, and radicalized persons to conduct operations in the United States. These threats could include cyber-attacks through the Iranian State's robust cyber program or terrorist organizations, as well as physical attacks and destructive hybrid attacks by proxies against U.S targets and interests abroad. Physical attacks continue to include the possibility of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, which are a staple tactic of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Quds Force, and proxy entities such as Hizbollah.

WARNING: While no information indicating a specific, credible threat to the Homeland, was assessed, individuals inspired to commit acts of terrorism may try to acquire or legally purchase common household items such as explosive precursor chemicals (EPCs), explosive powders, and IED components at retailers in your community to construct IEDs for use against infrastructure targets.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS: Our best opportunity to **prevent** an IED attack is to disrupt terrorists during the **planning phase** of the terrorist attack cycle. During the planning phase, terrorists are most vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation while attempting to acquire the materials necessary to build IEDs. Alert members of the public can play a vital role in preventing terrorist attacks by reporting suspicious behaviors to law enforcement with a detailed description of the person, products purchased, and vehicle(s) involved.



Suspicious Activity and Purchasing Behavior: Recognize and Report

Terrorists intending to procure the necessary materials to manufacture and employ IEDs may display suspicious behaviors in the process. Identifying and reporting suspicious and uncommon behavioral patterns can be safely and successfully accomplished by anyone in the community. Please consider the following when determining if a behavior is suspicious:

Normal Behavior:

Routinely observe common shopping behaviors in your environment. Establishing a baseline will assist in identifying suspicious behaviors.

Suspicious Behaviors:

Suspicious behaviors can be broad and include verbal behaviors such as:

- Aloof, or unfriendly and distant
- Argumentative and/or defiant
- Manipulative and/or scheming

Suspicious physical behaviors could include:

- Acting aggressively or agitated
- A customer exhibiting a noteworthy level of nervousness while inquiring about or purchasing potentially dangerous items
- Guarded/antisocial
- Observation/surveillance or testing security
- Performing bomb-making research
- Possessing or testing materials

Suspicious Purchases:

Point-of-sale retail employees play particularly important roles in counter-IED efforts and act as the nations "eyes and ears" during the planning phase of the terrorist attack cycle. Attentive store employees may experience unusual customer interactions or witness suspicious purchases. Some examples of suspicious purchasing behavior includes, but is not limited to:



Attention Retailers

Knowing which items in your store can be used to make homemade explosives and recognizing suspicious behaviors can help prevent bombing incidents.

	R	Recognize products within your inventory that could be used to make bombs
	A	Ask for customer I.D. and note suspicious purchases
	C	Check your inventory and report missing or stolen products
	K	Know your customers and report suspicious purchases or behaviors

Keeping Our Community Safe is Everyone's Concern
DEFEND TODAY. SECURE TOMORROW.

- Unusual ordering, purchasing patterns and/or purchases spread across multiple stores in a chain
- Vague knowledge of the proper uses for the product
- Unusually large quantities purchased
- Out of season purchases
- In-store pick-up for bulk purchases
- Large cash purchases or using another person's credit card
- IED components bought in conjunction with precursor chemicals or explosive powders
- Refusing to accept substitute

products that perform better or are less expensive

- Shopping for an unusual combination of products
- Unusual preoccupation with certain products' chemical composition
- Questions not relevant to lawful or proper use of the product

NOTE: Any determination of possible suspicious behavior or indicators should be supported by additional facts that justify reasonable suspicion. Although one activity may seem insignificant on its own, the indicators should be looked at under the totality of the circumstances.

**Report suspicious activity to law enforcement or
1-855 TELL FBI (1-855-835-5324)**

For readers who are not participants in the BMAP network, and are interested in getting involved, please visit <https://www.cisa.gov/bmap> or email OBP@cisa.dhs.gov for more information. **BMAP Tri-Fold**

Bomb-Making Awareness and SAR Training Courses

Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Employee Training (AWR-921): This course teaches participants how to recognize suspicious purchasing behaviors in a retail setting that might indicate bombmaking activity and what to do when a suspicious incident occurs.

- To register, please visit the online course catalogue at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/course/AWR-921> and have your FEMA Student ID (SID) ready
- To apply for a FEMA SID, complete the one-time registration process by visiting: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>

Homemade Explosives and Precursor Awareness for Public Safety (AWR-349): This course provides participants with a foundational understanding of HME and common precursor materials. Participants will define HME, This Course will explore the considerations involved in a decision by perpetrators to use HME as the explosive for an attack, and will learn to identify common precursor chemicals and materials used to make HME.

- To register, please visit the online course catalogue at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/course/AWR-349> and have your FEMA SID ready
- To apply for a FEMA SID, complete the one-time registration process by visiting: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>

Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items for Bombing Prevention (AWR-335): This course provides participants with a foundational introduction to recognizing and responding to suspicious behaviors and activities related to terrorist or criminal activities. This course also highlights what to do when encountering an unattended or suspicious item and to whom to report it.

- To register, please visit the online course catalogue at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/course/AWR-335> and have your FEMA SID ready
- To apply for a FEMA SID, complete the one-time registration process by visiting: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>

President approves Puerto Rico emergency declaration

(The Hill) On Tuesday the President approved federal emergency funding for Puerto Rico after a series of earthquakes that hit the island over the past 10 days, damaging homes and infrastructure.

The White House in a statement Wednesday announced it ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide equipment and resources to respond to the earthquakes.

Starting Dec. 28, Puerto Rico was hit by a series of small earthquakes that intensified, culminating in a tremor measuring 6.0 magnitude on the Richter scale early Tuesday, followed by a series of aftershocks.

Read more: <https://thehill.com/latino/477346-trump-approves-puerto-rico-emergency-declaration>

Related - Puerto Rico earthquake:

Roughly two-thirds of island without power amid dozens of aftershock

Story link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/08/us/puerto-rico-earthquake-wednesday/index.html>

'Hotspotting' patients with extensive needs *fails* to reduce hospital readmissions

(Reuters) As a method for reducing health costs and improving care for people with complex medical problems, an early effort at "hotspotting" patients to get extra attention has turned out to be not so hot.

Researchers looked at so-called "superutilizer" patients who require a disproportionate amount of medical resources - in part because they're poor or don't have someone to look out for them when they leave the hospital. Their study, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, found these patients don't avoid rehospitalization even if nurses, social workers and community health workers are looking out for them after they've been discharged.

The readmission rate was 62.3% within six months of discharge for patients who got that extra support versus 61.7% for those who did not.

Read full report: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-hotspotting-trial/hotspotting-patients-with-extensive-needs-fails-to-reduce-hospital-readmissions-idUSKBN1Z72YX>

Fire-EMS hopes new drug app can help save lives of children

(WDRB) An app used by local first responders could help save the lives of children. Buechel Fire-EMS started training on "Handtevy" this week at the department. It's an app installed on iPads in ambulances, and on phones of first responders, to give paramedics information about dosage and interactions of pharmaceutical drugs for pediatric patients. It's also being used for adult patients. The app is designed to save time when paramedics respond to a call, and that time could save a life.

The app allows first responders to click on a child's age/weight category and it details exactly what dosage the child will need of any medication. It's all color-coordinated with pediatric bags the department already has with tubes and instruments of a specific size. The app is even customized to the medications used by the department. Until last week, those calculations had to be done by hand or with a phone calculator, and they couldn't be done until after the first responders got to the scene.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/buechel-fire-ems-hopes-new-drug-app-can-help-save/article_f9835728-3244-11ea-bf4c-6b1dca8a223d.html

Advocates, Survivors Join During Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In an effort to prevent human trafficking, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear invited advocates and survivors of human trafficking to the Capitol rotunda Tuesday to recognize Human Trafficking Awareness month, which is the month of January. [The Samaritan Women's traveling Encounter Exhibit](#) will be located on the Capitol campus through Jan. 11. The exhibit, brought to Kentucky by the Child Victims' Trust Fund, contains sensitive, mature, subject matter.

Read more: <https://44news.wevv.com/gov-beshear-joins-advocates-survivors-human-trafficking-awareness-month/>

China pneumonia outbreak may be linked to new type of virus

(Reuters) - A cluster of more than 50 pneumonia cases in the central Chinese city of Wuhan may be due to a newly emerging member of the family of viruses that caused the deadly SARS and MERS outbreaks, World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday. While the United Nations health agency said it needed more comprehensive information to confirm precisely the type of pathogen causing the infections, it said a new coronavirus was a possibility.

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-virus-who/china-pneumonia-outbreak-may-be-linked-to-new-type-of-virus-who-idUSKBN1Z7304>

Electric scooter injuries surge along with their popularity

(AP) Electric scooter injuries have surged along with their popularity in the United States, nearly tripling over four years, researchers said in a study published Wednesday. Nearly 40,000 broken bones, head injuries, cuts and bruises resulting from scooter accidents were treated in U.S. emergency rooms from 2014 through 2018, the [research](#) showed. The scooter injury rate among the general U.S. population climbed from 6 per 100,000 to 19 per 100,000. Most occurred in riders aged 18 to 34, and most injured riders weren't hospitalized.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/8c3791f1960b19622554939725b18899>

California Lawmakers Eye Back-Up Power For Cellphone Towers

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/517333356>

U.S. Army Alert: *You Are Not Being Drafted*

(NPR) The U.S. Army wants Americans to know they have not been selected for a military draft despite a rash of texts that falsely tells people they're heading to fight a war against Iran.

"U.S. Army Recruiting Command has received multiple calls and emails about these fake text messages and wants to ensure Americans understand these texts are false and were not initiated by this command or the U.S. Army," officials said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday.

The notice also threatens that the recipient will "be fined and sent to jail for minimum 6 years if no reply."

A second version of the message states, "You've been marked eligible and must come to the nearest branch in New Jersey Area for immediate departure to Iran." It also instructs the recipient to contact officials immediately.

There does not seem to be any particular demographic that is being targeted by the messages.

Story link: <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/08/794729081/u-s-army-alert-you-are-not-being-drafted>

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.