

14 October 2010

Bulletin No. 10-09-31 Authority: CFIX Phone: 407-858-3906 Fax: 407-858-3944



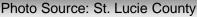
HYDROGEN SULFIDE SUICIDE TREND – FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY UPDATE



Trend Update: In February 2010, the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX) distributed a "First Responder Safety" bulletin regarding a new trend of chemical suicide. This increasingly popular method of suicide is advertised on the internet and is spreading throughout US, with additional cases recently occurring in Florida. **Nationally, there have been 14 confirmed cases of chemical suicides since 2008, with the State of Florida reporting the greatest number with 6 incidents.**

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide situational awareness to first responders and private sector security which may come in contact with this hazardous and deadly method of committing suicide.











CENTRAL FLORIDA INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE

INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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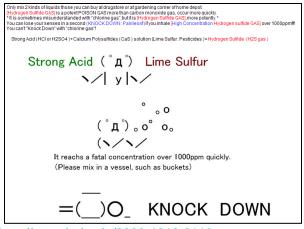


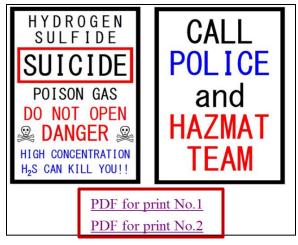
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Chemical Suicide Websites - "How To"

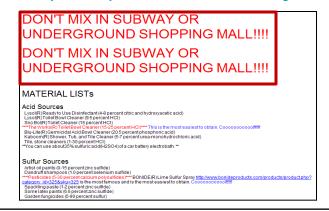
In Japan (2008), more than 500 people had killed themselves by inhaling hydrogen sulfide produced by mixing common household chemicals. Several Japanese websites still provide detailed information on how to commit suicide and/or cause multiple deaths by hosting "Hydrogen Sulfide Parties". A viewer could instantly print out a suicide sign warning the public and first responders of the deadly gas (pictured below).

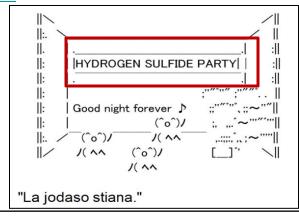




http://megalodon.jp/2009-1212-2119-

47/itteyosiiwatteyaru.web.fc2.com/howtodetergentsuicide.html







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The Chemical suicide methods utilize chemicals with an acid base mixed with chemicals containing sulfur compounds such as the following:

SULFUR COMPOUND ACID BASE SOURCES

- **SOURCES MIXED TOGETHER**
- Muriatic or Sulfuric Acid
- **Battery Acid**
- **Toilet Bowl Cleansers**
- **Acidic Drain Cleaners**

- Polysulfide Marine Sealant
- Lime Sulfur Spray
- Japanese Bath Salts
- **Leather Tanning Agents**
- **Detergents**
- **Pesticides**







At 500+ ppm, breaths can cause immediate death

LOW	0 – 10 ppm	Irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat
MOD	10 – 50 ppm	Headache Dizziness Nausea and vomiting Coughing and breathing difficulty
HIGH	50 – 200 ppm	Severe respiratory tract irritation Eye irritation / acute conjunctivitis Shock and convulsions Coma Death in severe cases



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2010 - FLORIDA CASES

02/06/2010 - Sarasota County

Sarasota County deputies found a person dead inside a vehicle sitting in an apartment parking lot. The person placed a note on the vehicle to warn anyone approaching that dangerous chemicals were used and not to open the car door. Residents of an apartment building were evacuated as HazMat crews prepared to open the car to release the chemical content.





02/13/2010 - St. Petersburg

A 23-year-old male used common household chemicals mixed together to generate Hydrogen Sulfide gas to commit suicide in a motor vehicle. A St. Pete PD officer was affected by the gas as well and had to be hospitalized for treatment.



03/01/2010 - Orange County

A male was passed out inside his vehicle, which was located in a wooded area off of Nova Rd. at the Orange/Osceola county line. The vehicle had a warning sign taped to the window with indications of hazardous chemicals inside. There were no injuries to first responders due to immediate situation notification from their Communications Center and their awareness generated by the "Chemical Suicide – First Responder Safety" bulletins that were disseminated by Orange County and CFIX.



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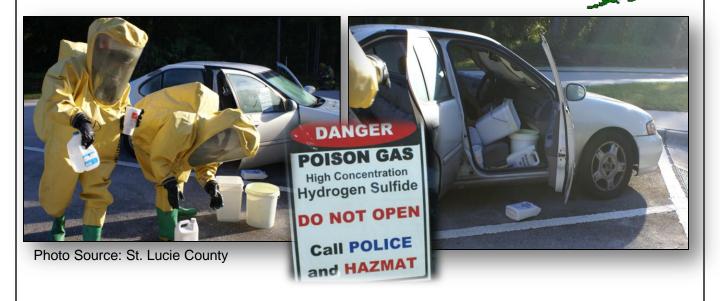
2010 - FLORIDA CASES cont...

08/07/2010 - Okaloosa County

A vehicle was discovered in a church parking lot with a note taped to the window warning people to stay away due to chemicals used to commit suicide. The victim was a 24 year-old male.

10/01/2010 - St. Lucie County

A security guard found a male slumped over inside a vehicle at a rest stop on I-95. There were signs on the windows indicating "POISON - DO NOT OPEN" and a smell of sulfur or rotten eggs coming from the vehicle. The hydrogen sulfide was so highly concentrated, it sent a trooper to the hospital just by touching the vehicle's door.





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2010 NATIONAL CASE CONSIDERATIONS

03/27/2010 - North Carolina

A 35 year-old **school teacher** was found dead in her vehicle, with chemicals in a bucket on the passenger seat. **There were NO warning signs posted** in or on her vehicle, exposing several law enforcement officers to the dangerous chemical mixture.

Note: Typically, persons committing this act have **left hazardous warning signs** to anyone approaching the scene, however this is **not always the case**.



04/13/2010 - Indiana (Indiana University)

A student was found dead and hundreds were evacuated from a residence hall when officers detected a chemical in the air while conducting a welfare check. HAZMAT crews discovered a suicide note that said 'Warning H2S'. The deceased student was found inside a closet with a bucket of hydrogen sulfide.

Note: Other countries have experienced an increase of Chemical suicides occurring in college dorm rooms. This trend should be considered when responding to a HAZMAT call on campus or conducting a welfare check on a student.





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Response:

☐ Size up any s	situation inv	olving an
unresponsive per	son in an	enclosed
space.		

- □ Review call guidelines with 911 dispatchers and call takers educating them on questions to ask regarding suspicious chemical incidents or a person that may be unconscious in a vehicle; warning signs posted inside or on doors/windows, visible chemical containers, foul rotten egg or almond odor, etc. It is critical that first responders are aware of any potential hazards.
- ☐ The smell of "rotten egg" would indicate possible exposure of hydrogen sulfide; the smell of almonds typically indicates the presence of cyanide compounds.
- ☐ Consider wind speed and direction when determining the need to evacuate nearby structures.

- ☐ If there is a possibility that the individual may be sleeping, attempt to wake them with a vehicle public address system, bullhorns, or sirens.
- □ If the individuals cannot be awakened responders should perform a thorough recon before entering the space to assist the victim.
- ☐ Individuals who initiate chemical suicide may, or may not, place a warning signs on doors or windows to indicate the presence of deadly gas inside the space. (Signs may not be easily visible.)
- ☐ Be cautious that the victim's breath and clothing will "OFF GAS" as well as other items exposed to the gas. The victim's clothing should be double bagged for safety.
- □ Look for household containers that hold chemicals, pails, buckets, pots or other containers where chemicals could be mixed.



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First responders and/or security personnel should exercise caution if they suspect the presence of hazardous chemicals indicating suicide. Knowing what to look for could mean the difference between life and death for responders. Below are indicators of chemical suicide scenes:

- ☐ HAZMAT warnings and/or suicide notes taped to the window
- TANGE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY
- ☐ Container used to mix the chemicals
- ☐ Bottles of household chemicals



- ☐ Suicide note inside vehicle
- ☐ Tools used to mix the chemicals



Photo Source: St. Lucie County

☐ Subject slumped over in the vehicle



Photo Source: St. Lucie County



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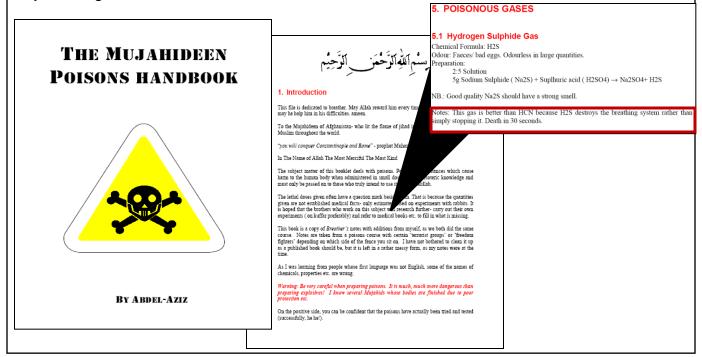


Potential Use For Terrorist Attack

It would be difficult for terrorists to create fatal concentrations of hydrogen sulfide in large open areas because the gas would dissipate; however, terrorist could use it in enclosed spaces to cause disruption, panic, injuries or even death depending on the concentration levels of the chemical mixture.

Currently, CFIX has no information indicating that a terrorist attack is imminent using this chemical, however terrorist training manuals have discussed using hydrogen sulfide gas in an attack.

(U//FOUO) The "Mujahideen Poisons Handbook" describes producing hydrogen sulfide gas by reacting sodium sulfide and sulfuric acid.





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Sources:

New York State Office of Homeland Security Advisory. (U) Hydrogen Sulfide: "A Potential First Responder Hazard". 2008

Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC): Special Research Report. "Hydrogen Sulfide Suicide" – *Latest Technique Hazardous to First Responders and the Public.* 2010

How to Detergent Suicide.

http://megalodon.jp/2009-1212-2119-47/itteyosiiwatteyaru.web.fc2.com/howtodetergentsuicide.html

Incident Reports from:

- Orange County
- Okaloosa County
- St. Petersberg
- St. Lucie County

On-Scene photos: St. Lucie County