



**AMERICA'S  
SECURITY  
BEGINS WITH  
YOU**

Sponsored by:  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Department of Homeland Security

Endorsed by:  
The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials

The public safety issues surrounding the potential **criminal misuse of ammonium nitrate fertilizer** are of the highest concern to the nation's agribusiness industry and its partners

## SECURITY BEGINS WITH YOU

in law enforcement. As a result of these serious concerns, U.S. retailers must now **demonstrate increased vigilance** to help ensure ammonium nitrate cannot be obtained by those with criminal intent.

## PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

Protecting your community from the criminal misuse of ammonium nitrate starts with notifying local law enforcement officials about the presence of ammonium nitrate at your facility and establishing a security plan.

The Agribusiness Security Working Group\* makes available a Web-based tool, which can assist you in conducting a security vulnerability assessment (SVA). This SVA is available through state fertilizer associations. A list of sponsoring state associations can be found at the following Web link: [www.tfi.org](http://www.tfi.org).

The SVA tool has been determined to meet national criteria for security vulnerability assessment design. As a result, retailers who use this program to assess their facility security can do so with confidence that their assessment is based on sound risk assessment principles. Retailers who complete the Agribusiness Security Working Group's SVA will receive a security assessment, along with guidelines and a list of recommended security measures to be implemented.

\* The Agribusiness Security Working Group is comprised of The Fertilizer Institute, CropLife America and the Agricultural Retailers Association.



## PLAN TO PREVENT AN INCIDENT

Agribusiness retailers are encouraged to utilize the Agribusiness Security Working Group security vulnerability assessment (SVA) or another security assessment tool. Regardless of the assessment tool utilized, a security plan must consider the amount of ammonium nitrate your facility handles, the location of your storage area, existing security measures including physical security measures, personnel security guidelines and training policies.

An effective ammonium nitrate security plan will require the implementation of layers of protection to include:

- awareness
- access
- alarms
- barriers
- inventory control
- lighting
- locks
- signage
- surveillance
- training
- vendors
- visibility

## IDENTIFY YOUR CUSTOMERS

You can protect against the criminal misuse of ammonium nitrate by ensuring this key fertilizer is sold only to agricultural professionals. Information regarding all sales of ammonium nitrate should be recorded by retailers and saved for a period of two years. Information gathered should include the name, address, telephone number, date of the sale and quantity of ammonium nitrate. All purchasers should be required to furnish a government issued picture identification card to verify identity and address of the purchaser.

## **ALERT**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

Suspicious activity regarding ammonium nitrate must be reported to local law enforcement personnel and to federal law enforcement officials. Call the toll free hotline 1 (800) 800-3855, which is operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) or 1 (888) 283-2662, the ATF National Law Enforcement Operations Center. Examples of suspicious behavior are listed on the next panel.

Local and federal law enforcement officials are powerful allies in your efforts to protect ammonium nitrate from criminal misuse. If you have not already done so, introduce yourself to your local police, sheriff and state police representatives. Ensure they understand the steps you currently take to keep ammonium nitrate in the right hands, including your policies for alerting them in the event of suspicious inquiries or theft of the product.



#### **Look for these signs of a suspicious customer or transaction:**

- **Stranger.**  
Unfamiliar individuals.
- **Doesn't know much about farming/fertilizer.**  
Doesn't answer questions about acreage, crops or soil composition in a specific and knowledgeable manner.
- **Insistent about ammonium nitrate.**  
Will not consider other products you recommend and is only interested in ammonium nitrate.
- **Doesn't want product delivered.**  
Insists on taking ammonium nitrate now and may ask for it in bags not bulk.
- **Hesitates or hedges when asked for information.**  
Such as name, address, signature and photo ID.
- **Acts nervous.**  
Avoids eye contact. Seems jittery, uneasy and vague.
- **Pays in cash.**  
Won't write a check or use credit. Has no credit account with yours or other agribusinesses in the area.

#### **If someone seems out of place, jot down some notes on a piece of paper:**

- **Note their physical appearance.**
- **Note the make, model, color and license plate number of their vehicle.**
- **Save any paper on which they may have written a name or address; minimize the handling to help preserve it for fingerprints.**

**Ensure ammonium nitrate stays in the right hands. Call ATF at 1 (800) 800-3855 to report suspicious activity, thefts or unexplained losses.**



## PROTECT, PLAN, IDENTIFY, ALERT

It's up to you to ensure ammonium nitrate stays in the right hands.

- **PROTECT** your community by establishing a security plan.
- **PLAN** to prevent an incident involving ammonium nitrate by taking effective security measures.
- **IDENTIFY** your customers by maintaining a record of all sales of ammonium nitrate.
- **ALERT** law enforcement officials of suspicious activity.

## KEY RESOURCES

Please consult the following organizations for additional information on securing ammonium nitrate.



**The Fertilizer Institute**

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

Resources: security checklist, ammonium nitrate awareness materials and detailed information on accessing the retail security vulnerability assessment (SVA) tool.

[www.tfi.org](http://www.tfi.org)

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



**ATF**

Toll free hotline for suspicious activity or theft.  
1 (800) 800-3855.

[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

Department of Homeland Security



General security information.

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

For additional copies of this brochure, please contact The Fertilizer Institute via telephone at (202) 962-0490 or e-mail at [information@tfi.org](mailto:information@tfi.org).

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