

## Excerpt: Key Findings From DHS HITRAC *Chemical Facility Threat Assessment*<sup>20</sup>

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"Intelligence reporting indicates al-Qa'ida, affiliated Sunni extremist groups, and other like-minded extremists continue to engage in operational planning with the intent to attack the Homeland."

**Comment:** This judgment is obvious but has to be stated because it is the primary reason the companies need to spend resources on additional security measures.

"The tactics terrorists are most likely to use against the nation's chemical and petroleum infrastructure include aircraft as a weapon and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs). Many facilities also are vulnerable to cyber attacks against their supervisory control and data acquisition or business systems. Any of these tactics could include the use of insiders with access to and knowledge of sensitive facilities and systems."

**Comment:** This information is important to facility owners and operators because it describes the likely attack vectors.

"Chemical and petroleum facilities are potentially attractive targets for terrorists.

- ▶ An attack on a chemical sector facility containing large quantities of toxic industrial chemicals could cause fatalities, extensive injuries, and panic, and could generate heavy media attention.
- ▶ Petroleum facilities appeal to al-Qa'ida and its affiliates because they symbolize what Usama Bin Ladin has referred to as 'Western theft of the Muslim world's oil resources.' Islamic extremists have attacked overseas petroleum facilities, especially in the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq."

**Comment:** The final point in this judgment will grab the attention of owners and operators. It tells them that the threat is not just hypothetical; attacks have already occurred, albeit overseas.