Do “Black Market” Cigarettes Finance Terror

When governments try to extract tax revenue from the economy and hike taxes to discourage smoking their actions may have unintended consequences, by spawning a massive black market.

Points to consider:
Cigarettes are the world's most widely smuggled legal consumer product. Recently an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) led to charges lodged against five suspects accused of operating a contraband cigarette ring, smuggling cigarettes from Norfolk and Virginia Beach to New Jersey. Although investigators have not called this arrest anything other than a criminal enterprise, experts warn that there is clear and convincing evidence that large sums are being siphoned from the multi-billion dollar revenues from the global cigarette smuggling trade into the pockets of terrorist networks. Consider that a Congressional study prepared by the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security called "How Cigarette Smuggling is Funding our Enemies Abroad", concluded that "Recent law enforcement investigations have directly linked those involved in illicit tobacco trade to infamous terrorist organizations. Additionally a United Nations Security Council investigative body has reported that millions of dollars in illicit tobacco revenues are reaching al-Qaeda, the Taliban and other terrorist organization. Finally consider that a Cato Institute study found that a wide range of terrorist groups are known to use the proceeds from cigarette smuggling to fund their operations. For example, counterfeit cigarette tax stamps were found in an apartment used by members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad cell that carried out the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the notorious "Lackawanna Six" Islamic-terror cell reportedly traveled in 2001 to Afghanistan, scoring $14,000 in travel money from a former gas-station operator convicted in 2004 for cigarette trafficking, and in 2002, a federal court found a North Carolina man guilty of providing material support for the Lebanese group Hezbollah by smuggling cigarettes within the United States.

June 16, 2010

President George W. Bush once said: "Al Qaeda is to terror what the Mafia is to organized crime. The dimensions of the threat posed by Al-Qaeda, a terrorist network is unprecedented, and never imagined by the West. Bin Laden has managed to contrive an intricate web of international Radical Muslims assisted by rogue states, international drug trafficking and criminal organizations. Over time, it attained a degree of complexity unlike anything seen before.”
Radical Environmentalists Send Cryptic Warning?
A radical environmentalists group called Earth First recently sent unsigned postcards bearing cryptic warnings about a controversial logging plan in North Carolinas Globe Forest to at least four timber companies.

Points to consider:
The unsigned postcard bears a picture of 25 people with their faces covered sitting on an overturned vehicle holding a banner reading “No Compromise On Native Forests Earth First,” and contains an image of a monkey wrench, which can be interpreted as a threat of sabotage. During the past twenty years, radical environmental and animal rights activists have claimed responsibility for hundreds of crimes and acts of terrorism causing more than $110 million in damages and pose a significant domestic terror threat. Acts of monkey wrenching can range from the benign to the potentially very dangerous. Closely associated with the environmental movement, it is a form of sabotage, which focuses on putting a temporary or permanent halt to activities, which the saboteur believes is undesirable. Consider that, there are two organizations most commonly labeled as “eco-terrorists” within the US: the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). The websites of both organizations, openly advocate tactics including arson, graffiti, sabotage (monkey-wrenching) and property destruction, and say they don’t strike to kill, but instead use scare tactics like arson to discourage their enemies. Their increasingly violent attacks worry many people. Those familiar with the movement suggest that, although groups are not in the practice of killing anyone, it may only a matter of time before they do.

Report: Terrorist-Criminal Nexus
A recent intelligence report has disclosed what could be considered proof of links between criminal networks and terrorists.

Points to consider:
Pakistani intelligence agencies have forwarded information that terrorists in Punjab, especially in the provincial capital, have direct links with local criminal networks, generating funds that would eventually help in carrying out terrorist attacks. Additionally, experts have said that terrorists have shown adaptability and opportunism in meeting their funding requirements. These organizations raise funds from legitimate sources, including the abuse of charitable entities, legitimate businesses or self-financing by the terrorists themselves, but also derive funding from a variety of criminal activities ranging in scale and sophistication from low-level crime to narcotics smuggling. Consider the findings of a November 2008 study by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, in Washington, D.C. titled “The Money Trail: Finding, Following, and Freezing Terrorist Finances” which said in part: “Due to TFTP al-Qaeda has changed the way it raises money for terrorist activities, relying more on criminal activities like the drug trade using informal transfer methods outside of the global financial system.”

Armed Duo Try To Gain Access To Base
MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida was placed on alert recently after two people were taken into custody after trying to enter the facility with fake identification, a stash of guns and ammunition.

Points to consider:
A search of the suspect’s vehicle revealed military-style uniforms and gear, several weapons, and ammunition. Consider that as of this date the suspect’s motives for attempting entry to the base which houses the headquarters for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the U.S. Special Operations Command is not known and officials say that there appears to be no obvious nexus to terror and in an apparent unrelated incident military police at Georgia’s Fort Gordon, arrested a civilian for an apparent theft while impersonating a soldier, and discovered "several possible grenades" and other "military-like" items in his possession.

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“Hobby Farmer” Causes Alarm
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) investigators in southern Ontario were looking for a man who recently purchased 65 25-kilogram bags (1,625 kilograms) of ammonium nitrate fertilizer from Vineland Growers Co-operative in Lincoln, Ontario, Canada, enough, they say, to make a bomb.

Points to consider:
The RCMP’s Integrated National Security Enforcement Team for the coming G20 summit had taken over the investigation into the fertilizer purchase, which is just over an hour from Toronto, where President Obama and other world leaders will soon be meeting for the G-20 summit. A Toronto “hobby farmer” quickly silenced the bomb threat alarm when he contacted police and said he purchased the fertilizer. Authorities recovered the ammonium nitrate from two Toronto addresses. Consider that ammonium nitrate-fuel oil (ANFO) mixtures are a favorite of car and truck bombers, was the explosive used in the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and the 2005 bombing of rush-hour London buses and trains. Additionally Canadian authorities arrested 17 terror suspects in 2006, charging them with a plot to use ammonium nitrate in a bombing campaign in Toronto. Finally an accidental explosion in 1947, 2,300 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer aboard a ship in Texas City killed 567 people and is generally considered the worst industrial accident in U.S. history

Report: Nuclear Waste Vulnerable
A recently released report by the private ICSA foundation, a private body that analyses potential threats to national security stated in part that Italy's storage of nuclear waste and other radioactive material are vulnerable to terrorists and should be kept under strict security.

Points to consider:
Although Italy closed its nuclear plants in 1987, the report found that its stockpile of radioactive waste consisted of 55,000 cubic meters from the de-activated nuclear plants, and 2,000 cubic meters from other sources (health and medical products, as well as waste produced by hospitals and chemical and other companies). Additionally be aware that Italy has a major issue from illegal immigration, especially from North Africa, home to the al-Qaeda linked group al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Consider that experts have warned of the ongoing efforts by terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and radiological weapons. Much evidence has been accumulated about al-Qaeda's inclinations to adopt a nuclear strategy.

Radical Cleric Seen As Global Threat
The UK’s MI5 fears that U.S.-born Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki is radicalizing a new generation of British extremists. The security service has warned that his growing influence has attracted young Britons to Yemen potentially to be groomed to carry out terrorist attacks in the UK. They are concerned that Awlaki’s followers could unleash a wave of easily planned guerrilla-style terrorist attacks, similar to the massacre in Mumbai.

Points to consider:
Officials warn that these small-scale “Mumbai Style” attacks could be carried out cheaply by individuals with little terrorist training and without the need for the support of a large organization. Furthermore, consider that in the world of jihad, U.S.-born Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki’s stature has risen significantly. A recent analysis indicates that there had been nearly three million viewings of al-Awlaki’s 1,910 YouTube videos last year. One of the most respected personalities in the Arab media, Al-Arabiya TV director-general Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed, has said that “Al-Awlaki is an important character” calling him is the “Bin Laden of the Internet.”

This year’s conference will be held October 25th-29th, 2010 at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, Some areas of focus for the conference:
• Evolution of Mass Hostage Siege Tactics
• Protecting Large Gatherings
• Soft Target Attacks (Mumbai Attack)
• Psychological Impact and Implications to First Responders

Call 866-573-3999
Official Calls For Fight Against Terror Funding
Recently while addressing a two-day international forum on Afghan Drug Production, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev urged the international community to wage a sustained fight against the drug trafficking that fuels global terrorism.

Points to consider:
Counter terrorism efforts in recent years have targeted the financial networks that bankrolled insurgents, terrorists and drug traffickers. This has weakened al-Qaeda financially to the point where the terrorist group’s affiliates have turned to drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping to raise money. As the international community clamped down on state-sponsored terrorism and pressured governments from financially supporting terrorist organizations these groups have focused on other means to finance their activities.

Stowaway Shows Security Lapse
The UK’s metropolitan police have detaining a 20-year-old Romanian man who stowed away travelling from Vienna to London on an unoccupied plane belonging to a United Arab Emirates sheikh.

Points to consider:
The man hid in the rear wheel compartment of the plane suffering bruises and hypothermia from outside temperatures as low as -41C. Consider that in today’s threat environment airport property is supposed to be secure and protected against intruders, so this type of security breach highlights a possible weak spot is a major concern and may spur a re-examination of aviation security because if a person can gain access, they could potentially plant an explosive device on an airplane. Furthermore, almost 10 years after the September 11, 2001 attacks, international terrorism is still a very real threat. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned earlier this year “The new decade is starting as the last began, with Al-Qaeda creating a climate of fear, and the failed Christmas day bombing highlighting that evolving terrorist threat.”

Police Concerned Over Spate Of ATM Thefts
Police have intensified their investigations into a series of ATM bombings using commercial explosives in and around Pretoria, South Africa the past two weeks.

Points to consider:
According to estimates by Retail Banking Research, there are over 1.5 million ATMs installed worldwide, with new ATMs being installed approximately every 5 minutes. Consider that ATMs have been designed to resist physical attacks. Yet that hasn’t completely stopped concerns over physical security. One physical attack method on these ATM’s is to seal every opening of an ATM with silicone before filling the vault with explosive gas or explosives.

Iranian Nuclear Equipment Reported Missing
Recently adding to the cloud of suspicion that hangs over Iran's nuclear program, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors say sensitive equipment that could be used to extract plutonium for an atomic bomb has vanished from Tehran's Jabr Ibn Hayan Multipurpose Research Laboratory.

Points to consider:
Iran's nuclear program has been a major point of contention with the West, suspecting that the Islamic Republic of putting together the infrastructure to eventually build an atomic bomb. Consider that Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, a former C.I.A. official and Director of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy detailed In a report, al-Qaeda's patient, decade-long effort to steal or construct an improvised nuclear device. Mr. Mowatt-Larssen said that despite its interest in chemical and biological weapons, al-Qaeda seems focused on the nuclear option to achieve its stated goal of killing four million Americans. Consider that Osama Bin Laden has made his own desire for nuclear weapons for use against the US and its allies clear. Bin Laden has in the past called the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) a “religious duty,” and for more than a decade has been seeking to buy nuclear weapons or material, and to recruit nuclear expertise.

Special offer for TVR recipients:
Our friends as Security Solutions International (SSI) have offered The Counter Terrorist Magazine at a discounted price of $29.99 for the first year to all TVR recipients. Just paste the link below into your browser.
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Drug Violence Rages
At least 39 people were killed in two northern Mexican towns recently, as the country struggles to tackle the scourge of powerful and violent drug cartels.

Points to consider:
Firing large-caliber weapons the gunmen wreaked terror carrying out a series of armed attacks and executions in the border towns of Chihuahua, and Madero. Consider that Mexico today, is a country ravaged by a brutally violent power struggle between drug cartels and authorities. According to various estimates Mexico’s drug trade generates $8-billion to $30-billion annually, providing the motivation for the “drug war”. Law enforcement sources say that violence from these turf battles among Mexico’s drug gangs have become extremely fierce in some regions, particularly along the border.

Medical Plane Crash
Investigators are sifting through the wreckage, of an aero-medical flight, which crashed Canley Vale, AU moments after taking off from Bankstown Airport, killing the pilot and onboard flight nurse.

Points to consider:
Consider that experts have said that in recent years, the number of small aircraft accidents have raised significantly. The increase in small aircraft crashes is often attributed to the higher number of personal aircraft in the skies over the U.S., and while large commuter aircraft must follow strict federal safety regulations, smaller aircraft are often allowed to follow more lax procedures involving maintenance, takeoff, flight, and landing.

Dozens Killed By Flash Floods
At least 20 people were killed as heavy rains caused floodwaters to tear through the Albert Pike Recreation Area campground in the Ouachita National Forest in Caddo Gap, Arkansas, packed with vacationing families.

Points to consider:
Due to the many potential hazards responders involved in flood response activities may be exposed to they should take precautions when working in floodwater. Floodwaters may contain raw sewage or other hazardous substances that can cause infections. Additionally, during a flood and its aftermath be aware the ground may become saturated with water, causing sinkholes and unstable terrain. Consider that this type of incident requires a prompt response and implementation of both the individual Departments and community-wide disaster plans. Prior to commencing operations, size-up is crucial in identifying and evaluating hazards, developing tactics, and determining available resources. Responders need to be prepared for these large-scale emergencies and be prepared to use the most effective techniques.

Flooding Leave Many Injured
A state of emergency has been declared in Oklahoma after severe thunderstorms ripped overpowerered drains, triggering vicious flash floods that left 136 people injured, roads and cars submerged, and thousands without power.

Points to consider:
Consider that each year natural disasters create major problems around the world, with storms and floods dominating the statistics, contributing more than two thirds to the major disasters. The reality is that these events can happen anywhere, no matter how unlikely or unpredictable, and it’s important to remain aware and prepared for the possibility of an emergency. When a disaster happens, rapid response saves lives. The faster and more coordinated emergency response efforts are, the more effective they can be. Because most first responders do not respond to large scale emergencies every day, it is important to stress effective response requires a disciplined team in which each participating individual follows clear lines of communication and performs according to clearly assigned roles and directions.

Fight Flood Water with Water, not SAND!!!

Flood-Sax: instantly available, activates immediately, and stacks in seconds. For information call 1-866-573-3999

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**Inferno Closes Two Interstate Highways**

Interstate highways 40 and 73 in Greensboro, N.C., were closed recently as firefighters battled a blaze that began when lightning struck a large gasoline tank at the Colonial Pipeline Tank Farm.

**Points to consider:**

Firefighters applied water on two nearby tanks as a precaution, and used foam on the 840,000-gallon tank fire after removing some of the flammable liquid from the tank. Consider that foam is used on most flammable liquid fires because it can: exclude oxygen from fuel vapors, cool fuel surface with water content of foam, and prevent release of flammable vapors from fuel surface.

**Diesel Spill Contained**

The Calgary Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team was deployed recently after a tanker truck developed a leak, spilling diesel over the road and into an irrigational canal.

**Points to consider:**

A containment boom was deployed on the canal to contain the diesel on the surface of the water from contaminating other water sources. Consider that diesel fuel (UN 1993) vapors may be ignited rapidly when exposed to heat, spark, open flame or other source of ignition. When mixed with air and exposed to an ignition source, flammable vapors can burn in the open or explode in confined spaces. Being heavier than air, vapors may travel long distances to an ignition source and flash back. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 128.

**Chemical Reaction Sickens Workers**

Lower Township DPW workers observed white smoke coming from the back of a trash truck in Erma, NJ recently. Thinking the truck's contents was on fire, the workers dumped the trash in the parking lot in order to extinguish the fire and reported feeling light headed from breathing in the fumes.

**Points to consider:**

Lower Township Police, Fire and Rescue units responded to the scene and requested the assistance of the County's Hazardous Material CBRN Unit who believe that discarded paint may have mixed with another chemical agent inside of the truck causing a chemical reaction which released fumes. Consider that the mixing two or more substances can result to one of several types of reactions, all of which have one common feature and that is the production of new substances or new mixtures.

**Hazmat Crew Deals With Volatile Substance**

A hazardous materials team was called to a Clearfield, UT business recently after two 55-gallon drums of methyl ethyl ketone were punctured and leaked the volatile fluid.

**Points to consider:**

Methyl ethyl ketone (UN 1193) is a clear colorless flammable liquid with a strong sweet alcohol-like odor. It is incompatible with strong oxidizing agents, amines, ammonia, copper, isocyanates, caustics, chlorosulfonic acid, fuming sulfuric acid, potassium-tert-butoxide, pyridine, chloroform + alkali, hydrogen peroxides + nitric acid, 2-propanol, inorganic acids. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 127.

**Responders Exposed To Cyanide**

Eight emergency responders were rushed to the hospital recently after they were exposed to potassium cyanide while stopping a suspected suicide in Aurora, Colorado.

**Points to consider:**

Potassium cyanide (UN1680) is an extremely poisonous white compound, used in the extraction of gold and silver from ores, in electroplating, and in photography, and as a fumigant and insecticide. Potassium cyanide releases hydrogen cyanide gas, a highly toxic chemical asphyxiate that interferes with the body's ability to use oxygen. Exposure to potassium cyanide can be rapidly fatal. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 157.
Hazmat Teams Called To Train Wreck

Officials evacuated homes within one-mile radius of the crash site as a precaution and summoned a Hazmat team to the Norfolk Southern train derailment near Liberty, SC.

Points to consider:
The train was reportedly carrying TDI or toluene diisocyanate, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, and polyurethane. Consider that isopropanol (UN1219) is a colorless flammable liquid with an alcohol-like odor. Flammable liquid and vapor may form explosive peroxides. Vapors are heavier than air and can spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 129. Additionally, polyurethane is described as an amber liquid with a paint thinner odor. Considered stable but contact with strong oxidizers should be avoided, and like all nitrogen rich compounds, polyurethane can release hydrogen cyanide gas when burned. Furthermore, ethylene glycol is a clear oily odorless liquid. Considered stable under ordinary conditions of use and storage, absorbs water readily, and incompatible with heat, flame, strong oxidizing agents. It reacts violently with chlorosulfonic acid, oleum, sulfuric acid, and perchloric acid. Ignition at room temperature is possible when exposed to chromium trioxide, potassium permanganate and sodium peroxide. Furthermore Tolyene diisocyanate (UN 2078) is a colorless to light yellow liquid. Extremely hazardous in case of ingestion, and slightly hazardous in case of skin contact (corrosive). Severe over exposure can result in death. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 156.

Railcars Derail In N.S.

Police and fire crews were called after 14 railcars of 72-car train carrying propane and hydrogen peroxide residue derailed in Avondale, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Points to consider:
Consider that propane (UN 1075) is odorless, tasteless, and colorless in its natural state; an odorant (ethyl mercaptan) is added similar to natural gas, so that leaks may be detected. Propane is easily ignited, heavier than air, therefore, it may collect in low areas or travel along the ground where an ignition source may be present. Be aware that pressure in a container can build up due to heat, and it may rupture (BLEVE) if pressure relief devices should fail to function. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 115. Additionally, hydrogen peroxide UN 2014 is a Clear, colorless, odorless liquid that is a strong oxidizing (fire-intensifying) substance, which can spontaneously lead to violent reaction. Be aware excessive heat could cause product to become unstable, and is well known among explosive experts as a potential bomb ingredient. For general operating procedures, refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 140.

Train Derails

Emergency services official are investigating a recent CSX freight train accident when two boxcars and a tanker derailed in Smithsburg, Maryland.

Points to consider:
Fortunately no hazardous material spilled but consider that every day, some 800,000 hazardous materials are shipped, carrying everything from chlorine and gasoline to liquefied natural gas and radioactive material, making the potentially harmful properties of these substances a major risk.

Workers Killed By Gas Explosion

The second deadly blast in two days involving workers accidentally hitting natural gas-lines, occurred recently when a bulldozer struck a 14-inch pipeline near Darrouzett, TX killing two workers.

Points to consider:
The resulting fire was allowed to burn, until Denver-based DCP Midstream shut off valves supplying gas to the pipeline, which feeds one of the company’s processing plants. Consider that natural gas (UN 1971) is extremely flammable and forms flammable mixtures with air. It will burn in the open or be explosive in confined spaces. Its vapors are lighter than air and will disperse. It has no color, odor, or taste, leaks are usually detected due to the additive mercaptan, which gives it a distinctive “rotten egg” odor, but the additive can be filtered out by the soil. Responders should be aware that natural gas leaking up through soil may-be scrubbed of the mercaptan odor, leaving the gas odorless and undetectable without a combustible gas meter. Always use meters to test for natural gas.

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Dozens Hospitalized By Chemical Exposure
At least 30 workers at Tulare Iron & Metal recycling business were became sick after they tried crushing a storage tank that had been dropped off for recycling.
Points to consider:
The 300-gallon tank had been painted lime green and contained chlorine gas. Consider that chlorine gas is heavier than air, with strong irritating bleach like odor. It is a corrosive and irritating to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes. Chlorine is an oxidizer and may explode or accelerate combustion if in contact with reducing agents. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 124.

Bomb Squad Called To Handle Explosive Chemical
The police department’s bomb squad was called to a Billings, Montana research center after staff found unstable picric acid during a regular inventory review.
Points to consider:
The chemical had changed from a stable liquid into an unstable, crystalline form, which can be explosive necessitating the evacuation of the research center, while the bomb squad safely removed the four jars of the acid, placing the jars in a containment unit and destroyed them at the landfill. Consider that picric acid can be a useful laboratory reagent; however, dry picric acid is a shock-sensitive explosive capable of releasing energy on a level similar to dynamite. In a confined area such, the force of a picric acid explosion could be devastating; due to its unstable nature, dry picric acid is forbidden from being transported in the U.S. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 113.

Pipeline Leaks into Creek
The Salt Lake City, UT Fire Department was called recently when a 10-inch Chevron oil pipeline running from Colorado to refineries in the Salt Lake Valley began to leak allowing oil to flow into Red Butte Creek leading to the closure of Liberty Park.
Points to consider:
The responders flagged down a nearby construction crew to help build dams and dikes to contain the oil near the source of the leak. Consider that crude oil (UN 1267) is an oily brown combustible liquid. Vapors will spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas. Containers may explode when heated. Considered stable under normal conditions but is incompatible with oxidizers such as peroxides, nitric acid and perchlorates. For general operating procedures refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide # 128.

Tanker Rolls In Adams County
The Colorado State Patrol closed 96th Ave at I-76 in Adams County, Colorado for several hours, and called a Hazmat team to the scene after a tanker truck carrying 7,500 gallons of fuel rolled onto its side.
Points to consider:
Consider that flammable liquids present particular problems pre-planning is the most important step in preparing for these incidents, because many flammable liquids offer multiple hazards (toxic, asphyxiant, corrosive), but may only be placarded for flammability.

FedEx Semi Crash Closes I-84
Traffic was closed on Interstate 84 near Glenns Ferry, Idaho recently after a FedEx semi pulling one trailer and carrying multiple hazardous materials crashed on the interstate and landed on its side resulting in a small hazardous materials spill.
Points to consider:
Consider that every day, some 800,000 hazardous materials are shipped on the road, carrying everything from chlorine and gasoline to liquefied natural gas and radioactive material, making the potentially harmful properties of these substances a major risk. According to a study by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Hazardous material (Hazmat) transportation trucks represent far more danger than any other truck in the event of an accident and these shipments are inherently dangerous, and potentially provide ready-made weapons for terrorists.
**Tanker Cleanup**
The Colorado State Patrol closed Highway 67 in both directions in Teller County, Colorado recently after a tanker truck rolled.

Points to consider:

*Fortunately the tankers contents did not spill and firefighters were able to safely remove the truck without incident. Consider hazardous materials are transported daily in the United States by air, water, road, rail, and pipeline. Of the 1.5 billion tons of hazardous materials transported in this country each year, more than half move by tankers along the Nation’s highways.*

**Garbage Truck Fire**
A Fire Department Hazardous Materials crew was called to extinguish a fire that started in the back of a garbage truck in Douglas, GA recently, believed to have been sparked by chemical improperly dumped into the garbage.

Points to consider:

*Officials believe the fire resulted from someone improperly disposing of chemicals by placing it in a common garbage container, which then mixed with other materials resulting in a chemical reaction. Consider that Chemicals are frequently used in our daily life and at work. Quite a number of these chemicals are dangerous substances, and some are hazardous when heated or mixed with other chemicals. The mixing two or more substances can result to one of several types of reactions, all of which have one common feature and that is the production of new substances or new mixtures.*

**Bomb Squad Called To Remove Dangerous Chemical**
The Berthoud Fire Protection District evacuated nearby Collins Park subdivision residents recently as the Larimer County sheriff's bomb squad removed a dangerous chemical known as Apex Extra from a “Left Hand Excavation” company truck at a Berthoud, Colorado jobsite.

Points to consider:

*The bomb squad planned to neutralize the chemical that is used as a “booster sensitive explosive,” prior to removal. Consider that apex extra (UN 0332) is an off-white, viscous putty-like substance with an odorless to slight diesel odor. Stable under normal conditions, and not itself combustible but assists fire in burning materials. Chemical poses risk of explosion by shock, fire of other sources of ignition. Incompatible with oxidizers, metal powder, bronze & copper alloys, fuels (e.g. lubricants, machine oils), fluorocarbon lubricants, acids, corrosive liquids, chlorate, sulphur, sodium nitrite, charcoal, coke and other finely divided combustibles and strong oxidizing and reducing agents.*

**Radioactive Truck Fire**
A hazardous material unit from DuPont was called out to conduct radiation tests recently after a pickup carrying radioactive material crashed and caught fire on U.S. Highway 77 in Victoria, TX.

Points to consider:

*The truck, owned by Petro-Chem Inspection Services carried a machine containing radium 192 used in oilfields and chemical plants. Consider that when responding to radiological emergencies, our senses (e.g. smell or sight) may not be able to detect hazardous levels of the material. Therefore, the initial response is often carried out based on secondary indications of the hazards such as labels, signs or placards indicating the presence of a hazardous material, and readings from specialized instruments. In radiological emergencies, the major goals of the response are: to protect the public, and emergency personnel during response. Additionally, medical evaluation of those potentially exposed and/or contaminated may be necessary in order to determine their subsequent medical management. Therefore those who are involved in radiological emergency should be registered.*
THE SMUGGLING SPECTRUM

Wholesale smuggling:
Large-scale organized smuggling involving illegal transportation, distribution and sale of large consignments of cigarettes on the “black market” without paying applicable taxes in either the country of origin or sale. This accounts for the lion’s share of worldwide smuggling.

Bootlegging:
Cigarettes purchased legally in one country but sold illegally (i.e., without paying taxes or duties) at higher prices in another. This often occurs in neighboring states or countries with substantial price differentials.

- Because taxes on cigarettes often account for a large share of their price (50% – 66%), they are especially appealing to potential smugglers. But price and tax rates are not the only incentive
- It is estimated that a single truckload of smuggled cigarettes could evade US$ 1.2 million in taxes in the European Union. networks to develop. These in turn put pressure on legitimate

- Smuggled cigarettes account for 6% – 8.5% of global consumption.

- Nearly a fifth of all cigarette production is exported. Of that amount, almost one-third (30%) – about 355 billion cigarettes a year – finds its way into the contraband market.

- There are major crime concerns: potential profits associated with wholesale cigarette smuggling create incentives for organized crime networks to develop. These in turn put pressure on legitimate distributors and increase the general level of corruption.