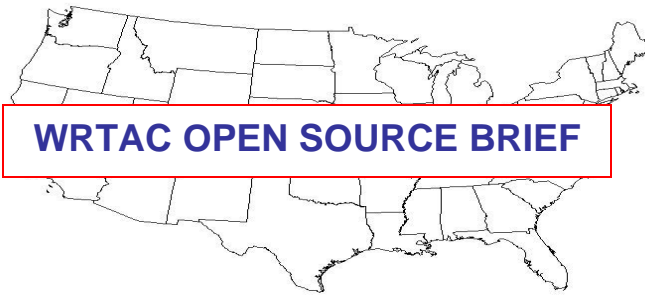


Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center




Submit a Tip
In an Emergency Call 9-1-1
1-877-YOU-WATCH
1-888-919-CRIME
Text Tip: 50411
wrtac@dc.gov or SAR@dc.gov

Scope: Provide the private sector, our partner agencies, and local jurisdictions with current open source information relating to terrorism, homeland security, critical incident response and public safety.
Re-distribution is encouraged.

May 14, 2010
2010-182

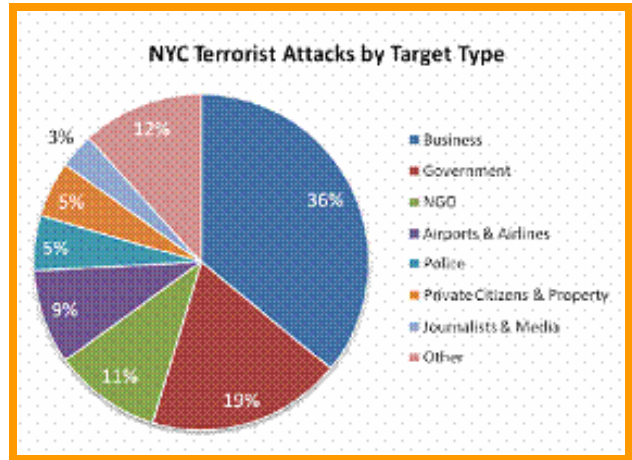
The WRTAC Open Source Brief is archived in the Homeland Security Digital Library and on the InfraGard member website.




Research finds favored target for terrorists

(Terrorism TTP)

New research, released by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland, reveals that when it comes to launching attacks against Americans in the United States, New York is the destination of choice for all terrorists, across the ideological spectrum. "New York City has been, by far, the most common target location of terrorists in the U.S. Of the 1347 total attacks in the U.S. from 1970-2007, more occurred in New York City during this period than in the next 4 most frequently targeted U.S. cities combined (Miami, 70 attacks; San Francisco, 66 attacks; Washington, DC, 59 attacks; and Los Angeles, 54 attacks)." Researchers at START came to some



interesting conclusions using the institution's [Global Terrorism Database](#). Among the report's findings:

- **Terrorists are most likely to attack businesses, followed by government offices and non-governmental organizations.** Airports, airlines, law enforcement, private citizens and their property are all equally viable targets for terrorists while media organizations are the least likely, despite the overly-hyped anthrax attacks. Other types of attacks – with five incidences or less – include non-aviation transportation facilities, religious institutions, the food and water supply and telecommunications
- Terrorists attacking New York are more likely to use a bomb or explosive than any other means, but they have also been known to use incendiaries and firearms

Source:

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/article/20701/new_research_finds_nyc_favored_target_terrorists

Analyst Comment: To download the full report, visit:

http://www.start.umd.edu/start/announcements/2010May01_NYC_Terrorism%20v2.pdf

Grill Fires on Residential Properties

Grills, hibachis, and barbecues on residential properties continue to be a high fire risk and, on average, result in more injuries and slightly higher dollar losses when compared to all other fires. As a result, it is crucial that each household diligently practice fire safety when cooking on one of these pieces of equipment. Practicing fire safety can prevent these fires and their resultant injuries, deaths, and property loss.

(Public Safety)



Findings

- Grill fires on residential properties result in an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$37 million in property loss each year.
- Over half (57 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the 4 months of May, June, July, and August.
- Thirty-two percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards, while an additional 24 percent start on exterior balconies and unenclosed porches.
- The leading category of factors contributing to ignition is “mechanical failure, malfunction” (35 percent). Within this category, leaks or breaks of containers or pipes account for 23 percent of all grill fires on residential properties. http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/cooking.shtm

WTAC Analyst Note: To read the full report, visit: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v11i1.pdf>

WTAC Analyst Note: The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following Cooking Fire Safety Tips

Use Barbecue Grills Safely

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking food.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Use only outdoors! If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, barbecue grills pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to carbon monoxide.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.
- If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame:
 - ✓ Turn off the propane tank and grill.
 - ✓ If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - ✓ If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

More Recalls of Freshway Lettuce, Second Strain of E. coli Found

(Public Health)

The number of confirmed and probable E. coli O145 infections from Freshway bagged lettuce remained steady at 29 May 11, but additional recalls were announced as evidence of additional contaminated product surfaced. **Freshway has now recalled 72 different types of bagged lettuce in 23 states.** The article also pointed out that a second firm, Vaughn Foods of Moore, Oklahoma, has recalled lettuce from the same Yuma, Arizona farm implicated in the original recall. Vaughn is recalling bagged romaine with a sell-by date of either May 9 or May 10, CIDRAP reported. It also indicated that a second, independent strain of pathogenic E. coli was isolated in a Freshway bag of shredded romaine lettuce. CIDRAP said Andrew Smith Co. of California recalled 1,000 cartons or about 23,000 pounds of lettuce sold to Vaughn Foods and to an unidentified third firm in Massachusetts. <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/05/articles/food-poisoning-information/freshway-lettuce-e-coli-o145-more-recalls-second-strain-of-e-coli/>



What makes schools safer? Watchful eyes, experts say.

(School Safety Initiative)

Administrators across the country are dealing with more aggressive behavior and more aggression in younger students, even at the elementary level. But metal detectors, cameras and security guards aren't enough to keep guns out of schools and students safe. School security experts say that Staff and students need to be more alert. "If someone is suspended, you don't let someone in through the side doors. If you have a friend and they have a gun or a knife and you know about it, you have a responsibility to tell someone, because you never know if they get angry if they'll use it." **School officials also need to go one step further when suspending students and ask: What is he angry about? Is there a reason that he would be coming back to school for retaliation? Does he have access to a weapon at home? Experts say officials should report the suspension to police.** <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/05/what-makes-schools-safer-watchful-eyes-experts-say>



Resources

GlobalIncidentMap.com

A Global Display of Terrorism And Other Suspicious Events

DomesticTerrorMap.com

About WRTAC: The Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center is the District of Columbia's fusion center. The WRTAC was formed in 2007 in order to facilitate prevention, response, and mitigation to criminal and terrorist activities, as well as man-made and/or natural disasters by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating diverse intelligence information and intelligence products.

WRTAC supports multidisciplinary, proactive, risk-based, and community-focused problem solving. WRTAC provides a continuous flow of information and intelligence to officials to assist in developing a depiction of evolving threats and mitigation strategies.



The WRTAC Open Source Brief is produced by the Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center. For a free email subscription, email Kelly.wilson@dc.gov

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