



Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner

September 19, 2001

Dear Owner or Facility Manager:

In the wake of the recent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, our nation, and this state, are on a heightened security alert for potential follow-up acts of terrorism. As you know, President Bush has indicated that this is not a short term concern, but one which will extend over a considerable period of time. Both the President and many experts outside his administration have indicated that should a second attack occur it may be in the form of chemical or biological weapons.

Some of our important chemicals used for plant growth, pest control and public health protection, can be misused as potential agents to attack people or places. For this reason, I am asking for everyone's full cooperation in establishing appropriate measures to prevent theft and unauthorized access where these products are located. You must consider the chemicals you handle, as well as each facility you maintain, to be potential targets for terrorist activity, and exercise due diligence in closely tracing product inventories, shipments and facility security measures. It is recommended you conduct a security review of your firm including your structures, parking areas, personnel who have access to your properties, alarm systems, emergency power systems, employee/visitor identifications, communications, perimeter security, and contingency plans. The following additional suggestions will aid you in your security plans.

1. Make certain you have a list of all emergency contacts and numbers and ensure appropriate posting and notification in your firm.
2. Review your internal security, safety procedures, and provide training to personnel. Ensure plans and procedures are in compliance with local, state, and federal requirements.
3. Report all suspicious activities, vehicles, or persons.
4. Report all threats on personnel and facilities.
5. Report all thefts, inventory shortages, or missing products that could pose a public health or safety risk.
6. Report all burglaries, sabotage to facilities or equipment, and all vandalism or activities that may pose a safety or security risk.
7. Report all requests to purchase large quantities of products which could pose a public health or safety risk when the consumer is unknown or not had previous business dealings.

Should you suspect any problems, or discover evidence of tampering, trespassing, etc., please immediately contact my Department at 1-800-342-5869. Our Agricultural Law Enforcement Office will assist you immediately and notify other Department personnel. My Department is working closely with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in assisting with their efforts to insure the State of Florida is as safe as possible from terrorism. Local law enforcement agencies should also always be notified immediately about any of the above information.

By working together we can better ensure the safety and well being of the citizens of Florida and this great nation. I know I can count on our many partners and industry members to pitch in and unite in this crucial effort. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE