

U.S. girds against chlorine bomb risk

by UPI

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Homeland Security Department is concerned the use of chlorine bombs in Iraq is now a threat to the United States, USA Today reported Tuesday.

In Washington, Robert Stephan, Homeland Security's infrastructure protection chief said 150-pound tanks of chlorine are common throughout the world and terrorists have learned to make bombs from them that kill not only by explosive force but by suffocating victims with toxic fumes.

"This is now being used as a tactic against us in another part of the world," Stephan said.

The Chlorine Institute trade group recently alerted the FBI to several thefts and attempted thefts of chlorine tanks from water treatment plants in California, although there is no intelligence indicating an imminent chlorine attack, the newspaper said.

At least five chlorine bombs have been reported by the U.S. military in Iraq in recent weeks and several others have been found and disarmed before attacks were made, the report said.

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