

BE AWARE...

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The Fertilizer Institute

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

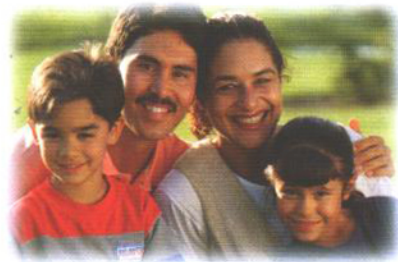
Association of American Plant Food Control Officials

Agricultural Retailers Association

# ... FOR AMERICA

Ever since the the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City, the issue of using ammonium nitrate fertilizer for criminal pursuits has become front page news.

Naturally, all of us in the fertilizer industry are concerned about the intentional, criminal misuse of our products. We also believe we can play a role in preventing such abuse in the future. So, we're joining forces with law enforcement to help protect against our products falling into the hands of bad people. Here are a few steps you can take to help make the effort a success.



## AWARENESS AND ACTION.

### OUR MOST EFFECTIVE BLEND.

The first step to take is *protect your product*. Make your own place of business a secure site for storage and distribution of fertilizer products. Be aware of how much product you have on hand. Have your warehouse, storage yards and loading docks secure. Make sure your employees know they're to keep an eye out for theft or misreporting of fertilizer product shipments.

Now for step two—*know your customers*.

## MAKE THE RIGHT CALL.

Nobody knows the farmers in your area like you do. You know their farms, their soil, their crops and their product needs.

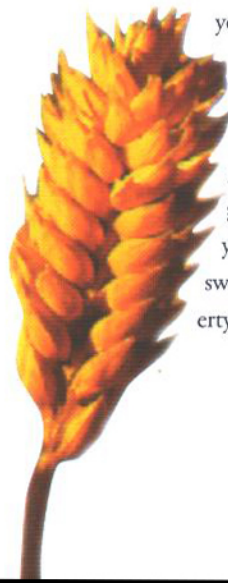


You can use this knowledge to help protect against the criminal misuse of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals. In your conversation with your customers you may be able to tell if something's not quite right with someone's request to purchase ammonium nitrate—be it the quantity they ask for; their resistance to consider another product you might recommend; or their impatient, nervous, agitated manner.

If the customer doesn't seem quite right, wait until the person has left your store. Jot down their license plate number and an accurate description of the person and the vehicle. Then call the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) at the toll-free number.

Don't doubt your instincts or second guess yourself. If a customer gave you pause, in even a small way, call the number.

ATF and local law enforcement agencies will conduct a discreet investigation right away. Any information you give will remain confidential, including your name and place of business. Your swift action just might protect lives, property and our individual freedom.



## BECAUSE YOU CARE, STAY AWARE.

*(tear off this checklist and keep it near your register and phone.)*

Look for these signs that something may be amiss.

- **Stranger.**  
Unfamiliar to area or to you.
- **Doesn't know much about farming/fertilizer.**  
Doesn't answer questions about acreage, crops, soil composition, etc. in a specific, knowledgeable way.
- **Insistent about ammonium nitrate.**  
Will not consider other products you recommend. Is only interested in ammonium nitrate.
- **Doesn't want product delivered.**  
Insist on taking product now. Asks for it in bags, not bulk.
- **Hesitates/hedges when asked for information.**  
Name, address, signature, photo ID, etc.
- **Acts nervous.**  
Avoids eye contact. Seems jittery, uneasy, vague.
- **Pays in cash.**  
Won't write a check or use credit. Has no credit account with yours or other ag businesses in the area.

If someone seems out of place, jot down some notes on a piece of paper:

- Note their physical appearance.
- Note the make, model, and color of their vehicle.
- Note the license plate number.
- Save any paper on which they may have written a name or address; minimize handling to help preserve it for fingerprints.

Then make the call. 1 800 800 3855. Be aware for America.



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Institute

