

Handling Suspicious Packages or Envelopes



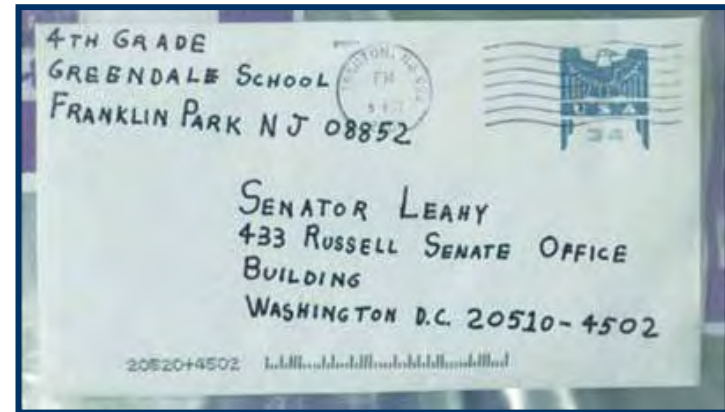
Greater Cincinnati: Ohio - Kentucky - Indiana

Objectives

- Identify the characteristics of suspicious packages and envelopes
- Identify the proper method for handling suspicious packages and envelopes

History

- In October of 2001, the first case of inhalational anthrax as a result of bioterrorism occurred in Florida
- Later that month, anthrax attacks were also made at federal buildings in Washington, D.C.



Recognition

FBI Advisory

If you receive a suspicious letter or package
What should you do?

- 1 Handle with care
Don't shake or bump
- 2 Isolate and look for indicators
- 3 Don't Open, Smell or Taste
- 4 Treat it as Suspect!
Call 911

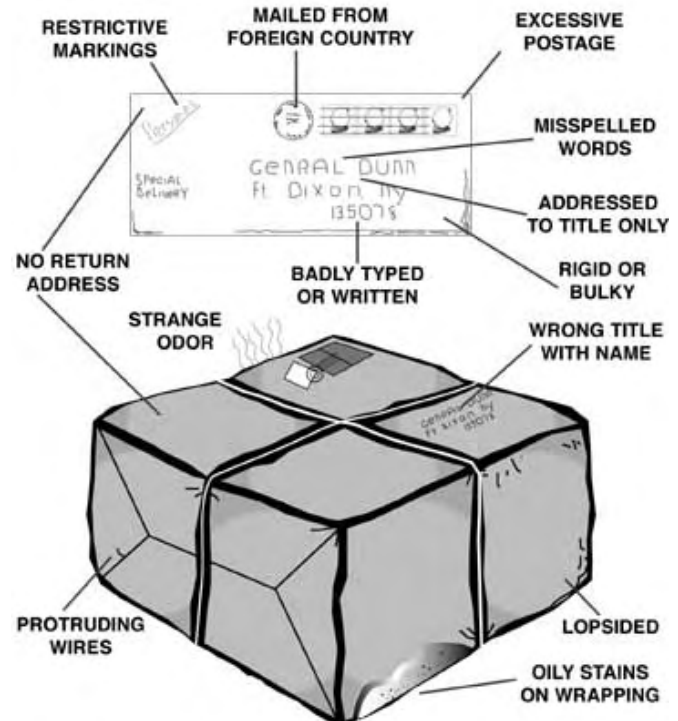


If parcel is open and/or a threat is identified...

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>For a Bomb
Evacuate Immediately
Call 911 (Police)
Contact local FBI</p> | <p>For Radiological
Limit Exposure - Don't Handle
Distance (Evacuate area)
Shield yourself from object
Call 911 (Police)
Contact local FBI</p> | <p>For Biological or Chemical
Isolate - Don't Handle
Call 911 (Police)
Wash your hands with soap and warm water
Contact local FBI</p> |
|---|---|--|



Police Department _____
 Fire Department _____
 Local FBI Office _____
 (Ask for the Duty Agent, Special Agent Bomb Technician, or Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator)



Recognition

- Characteristics of suspicious packages and envelopes can be broken down into three categories:
 - Inappropriate or unusual labeling
 - Appearance
 - Other suspicious signs

Recognition (cont'd.)

- Inappropriate or unusual labeling
 - Excessive postage
 - Handwritten or poorly typed addresses
 - Misspellings of common words
 - Strange return address or no return address
 - Incorrect titles or title without a name

Recognition (cont'd.)

- Inappropriate or unusual labeling (cont'd.):
 - Not addressed to a specific person
 - Marked with restrictions, such as “Personal”, “Confidential”, or “Do Not X-Ray”
 - Marked with any threatening language
 - Postmarked from a city or state that does not match the return address

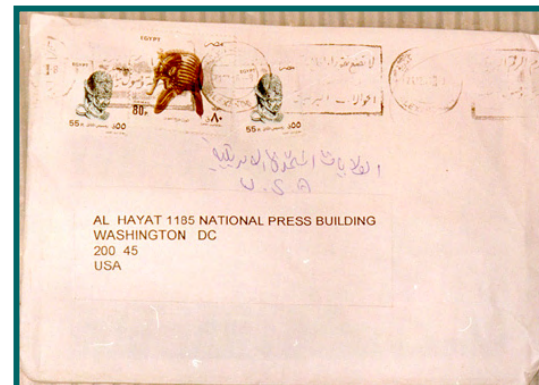
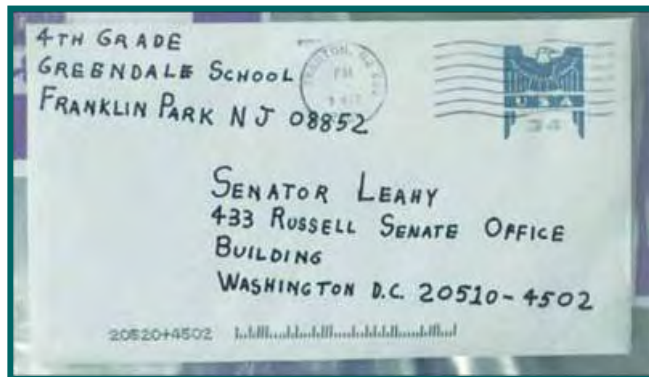
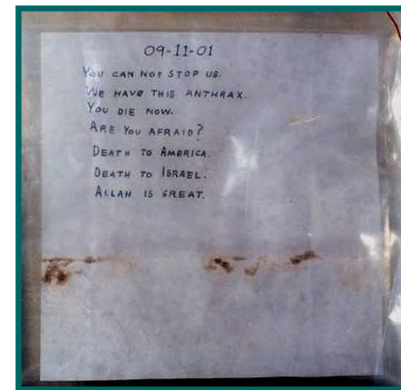
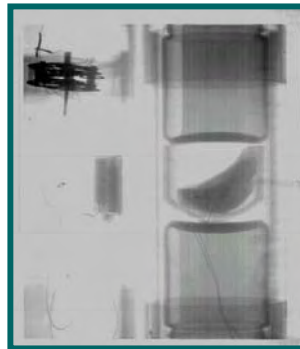
Recognition (Cont'd.)

- Appearance:
 - Powdery substance felt through or appearing on the package or envelope
 - Oily stains, discolorations, or odor
 - Lopsided or uneven envelope
 - Excessive packaging materials such as masking tape, string, etc.

Recognition (cont'd.)

- Other suspicious signs:
 - Excessive weight
 - Ticking sound
 - Protruding wires or aluminum foil

Examples:



Recognition

Odors & Appearance

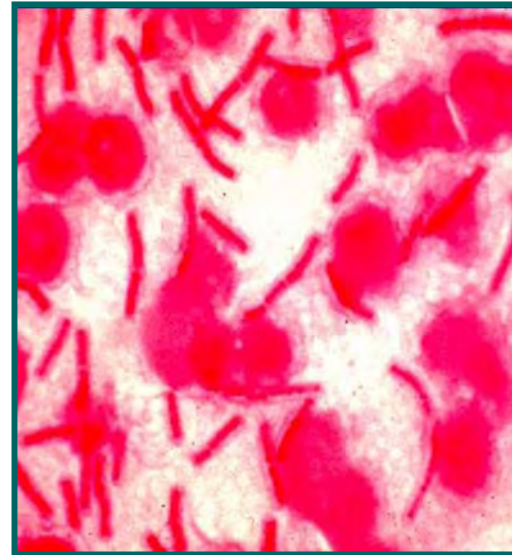
Distinctive chemical agent odors:

Agent	Agent Type	Odor & Appearance
Sarin	Nerve	<i>Colorless and odorless liquid</i>
Tabun	Nerve	<i>Colorless to brown liquid with faint fruity or bitter almond odor</i>
VX	Nerve	<i>Amber oily liquid with no odor</i>
Mustard	Vesicant	<i>Colorless to amber oily liquid with a garlic-like or horseradish odor</i>
Nitrogen mustard	Vesicant	<i>Either dark liquid with fishy odor or colorless liquid with fruity or no odor</i>

Biological Agents



Castor Bean Plant
(Ricin)



Bacillus anthracis
(Anthrax)

Handling

- Below are handling recommendations if you receive a suspicious package:
 - **DO NOT PANIC!**
 - Place item in a plastic bag or containment system and seal it



Postal Inspection Unit

Handling (cont'd.)

- Stay in office or immediate work areas (this also applies to co-workers)
- Prevent others from entering the area
- Call for help to the appropriate person and identify the following:
 - *Exact location of incident*
 - *Number of people potentially exposed*
 - *Description of the package/device*
 - *Actions taken*

Handling (cont'd.)

- Keep your hands away from your face
- If possible (without leaving work area) wash your hands
- Wait for help to arrive

Handling (cont'd.)

- Below are handling recommendations if you have opened a package that may contain hazardous materials:
 - DO NOT PANIC!
 - Do not disturb the item any further

Handling (cont'd.)

- If any material has spilt do not attempt to clean it up
- Do not cover the material up
- Stay in your office or immediate work area (also applies to coworkers)

Handling (cont'd.)

- Prevent others from entering the area
- Call the appropriate authority for help and provide them with the following information:
 - *Exact location of the incident*
 - *Number of people potentially exposed*
 - *Description of package/device*
 - *Description of the material, if any, that has spilt*
 - *Actions taken*
 - *Whether there is a ventilation system servicing the area*

Handling (cont'd.)

- Keep your hands away from your face
- Wash your hands if possible without leaving the area
- Turn off any fans or equipment that is circulating air around the workplace
- Wait for help to arrive

Anthrax Facts

- Anthrax is a disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*
- Anthrax cannot be spread from person to person
- Anthrax infection may take place through the skin after direct skin contact (cutaneous) or through the inhalation of infective material

Anthrax Facts (cont'd.)

- Cutaneous anthrax responds well to treatment and is not usually life-threatening
- Inhalation anthrax may be life-threatening, but responds to early treatment
- Emergency authorities have access to rapid tests to determine anthrax contamination in mail or suspect packages

Summary

- Characteristics of suspicious packages and envelopes
- Proper methods for handling suspicious packages and envelopes