



Office for Bombing Prevention

TRIPwire

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Emergency Responder Note**(U) WARNING:**

TATP is extremely sensitive and unstable. TATP can detonate without exposure to heat, shock, or friction; Do **NOT** disturb suspected TATP. Call your local **EXPLOSIVES DISPOSAL UNIT/LAW ENFORCEMENT**.

(U) Improvised Explosive**(U) Type**

Homemade Explosive (HME) / Improvised Explosive (IE): Non-standard explosive mixtures/compounds formulated/synthesized from available ingredients. Most often used in the absence of military or commercial explosives.

(U) Precursors

- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Acetone
- Strong Acid
- Baking Soda (optional)

(U) Recent Incidents

- Beaver Dam, WI (2018)
- Federal Way, WA (2018)

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Join at: tripwire.dhs.gov**TATP-Triacetone Triperoxide/Acetone Peroxide/"Mother of Satan"**

(U) NOTE: This product is provided for awareness and information purposes only. ALWAYS follow your individual office standard operating procedures (SOPs) when encountering suspected IED-related materials.

Precursor	(U) Availability/Utility	Examples
Acetone	Found in hardware, beauty supply, and grocery stores in high to 100% concentrations. Used in paint thinner, nail polish remover, and other everyday items.	
Hydrogen Peroxide	High concentrations of hydrogen peroxide can be found in pool or beauty supply stores. It can also be purchased via e-commerce sites in concentrations greater than 27%. Higher concentrations produce higher TATP yields. Used in disinfectants, bleach, and other cleaners.	
Strong Acid	Strong acids, such as sulfuric acid, are found in hardware and auto parts stores, and commonly used in drain cleaners and car batteries. Hydrochloric/muriatic acid can be found in high concentrations at hardware stores as a masonry and metal cleaner, or at pool stores as a pool cleaner.	
Sodium Bicarbonate	Baking soda may be optional in the synthesis of TATP and is widely available in general merchandise, hardware and grocery stores. It is a common household item.	

(U//FOUO) Identification of TATP

- TATP is a white crystallized powder with a sugar-like consistency and appearance.
- TATP has an acrid odor similar to its precursor, acetone.
- Potential indicators of TATP production include presence of cooling and laboratory equipment, ice baths, and the listed precursors.
- TATP may be stored in a "slurry"—a wet form of the explosive—due to its sensitivity to heat, shock, and friction.
- TATP precursors can be found in clandestine drug labs. TATP is a possible by-product of the MDMA (Ecstasy) manufacturing process.

(U//FOUO) TATP Safety Precautions

- Never subject suspected HME to sources of heat, shock, or friction, especially when dry.
- Drug detection field tests can cause TATP to detonate, if misidentified.
- Do not attempt to move or transport suspected TATP due to its unstable nature, and extreme sensitivity to heat, shock, and friction.
- Do not alter the state of TATP synthesis or storage by turning off cooling equipment.
- Do not handle precursor chemicals without proper safety equipment; gloves, mask, and apron. Dangerous chemicals can burn exposed skin and other body parts, e.g. eyes.