

Plant Security

September 2008

On this anniversary of terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, we remember that such attacks have occurred in many other places throughout the world, before and after the New York and Washington attacks (for example, the Tokyo subway; London; Madrid; Bali, Indonesia; Ahmedabad, India; several attacks in Russia, many incidents in various countries in the Middle East). There are few countries which have not had experience with sabotage or terrorist attack. The hazardous nature of the materials handled in the process industries requires everyone's vigilance to ensure that our plants are secure, to protect ourselves, our fellow employees, and our neighbors. If you work in a chemical storage or processing facility, you are in the best position to observe and address potential security vulnerabilities in your plant. As you go about your work, look for potential security problems, and report them to management so they can be corrected.



What can you do?

As you work in the plant every day, you have opportunities to see potential security problems. Look for them, and report them. Here are a few examples, and you and your management can easily develop a much longer list:

- Security lights which are not working, or are inadequate if they are working
- Broken latches on gates or doors in the plant fence
- Loose gates, or gates with large gaps under them
- Gaps in or under fences, damage to fences, fences which are too low, erosion of the ground under fences
- Objects near fences on the outside which would assist in climbing over the fence
- Chains and locks improperly secured
- Gates, doors, or windows on the outside boundary of the plant left open, or propped open.
- Gates or doors to the outside which get stuck without fully closing



A fence overgrown with bushes and trees



Cars parked near a fence can help intruders climb the fence

Also, you should know and follow the security procedures at your plant – for example:

- Always wear required identification badges, and, if you see somebody without proper identification, report it to your supervisor or security officers.
- Don't let other people borrow your plant access card or identification card.

A lock on the web of a chain link fence – not as strong as if chained and locked around the fence post



Plant security is everybody's responsibility!