

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

United States  
Coast Guard



# COAST GUARD NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MARITIME REPORTING OF SUSPECTED OR ACTUAL TERRORIST INCIDENTS**

This provides the public with a national telephone number (800-424-8802) to report suspected and actual terrorist incidents. The National Response Center (NRC) is the central point of contact for all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological releases anywhere in the United States. These hazardous substances may potentially be used in terrorist incidents and, given its existing capabilities, the NRC can serve as an effective clearinghouse for notification of terrorism incidents.

While it may be difficult to predict and prevent terrorist attacks, certain steps can be taken to minimize the chance that the attack will disrupt vessel and port operations. The Coast Guard is working with industry and other law enforcement agencies to develop and communicate best practices for prevention. The FBI and USPS have published guidance on their websites that provide "tell-tale" signs for identifying suspicious packages.

Upon notification of a potential terrorist incident, the NRC will connect the caller to the FBI's Strategic Intelligence and Operations Center (SIOC), who will coordinate with other agencies to perform an immediate assessment of the threat credibility. In some instances, the FBI may be able to verify that the report is a false alarm or a hoax that requires no response. Other cases may require an on scene assessment by the FBI and other federal, state, and local officials.

In addition to oil and hazardous substance releases, the NRC should be notified of any suspected terrorist incident, particularly those affecting transportation systems. Again, we strongly encourage that reports of suspected or actual incidents be reported to the NRC at 800-424-8802 or 202-267-2675.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville Public Affairs Officer, LTJG Steven M. Garcia at 582-5194, ext. 38.

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