

**\*EXERCISE\* SITUATIONAL AWARENESS \*EXERCISE\***

**Potential Terrorist Attacks**

July 3, 2023: For the past several weeks, law enforcement officials have monitored the movements of members of a homegrown violent extremist (HVE) group known as MANTIS.

The socialist, anti-establishment, anti-religious group has posted information on the internet suggesting their intent to conduct terrorist attacks against Florida’s government agencies, as well as economic and religious establishments in various cities around the state tomorrow, July 4, 2023.

As a result, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Florida Fusion Center have ramped up surveillance statewide and are coordinating with law enforcement and officials statewide to step up surveillance and provide additional security and presence at all high-profile events scheduled for the holiday. In addition, they are asking everyone – residents and visitors alike, to report any suspicious activities immediately to local authorities and the FBI.

MANTIS members have been known to use unconventional tactics and weapons in the execution of their efforts. The FBI just disclosed to law enforcement and officials MANTIS has stolen an undisclosed amount of Cobalt 60 rods (rods packaged in stainless steel tubes containing pellets – see photo) from undisclosed locations in the state.

CO-60 is a metallic solid normally used for commercial and medical purposes, such as sterilizing medical equipment and consumer products, radiation therapy for treating cancer patients, manufacturing plastics, and irradiating food. It is produced commercially and packaged as a solid, gray-blue metal material that might appear as small metal disks or in a tube, enclosed at both ends - which holds the disks. Or, as above, in pellets.

It also can occur as a powder if the solid sources have been ground or damaged. It has a half-life of 5.27 years. CO-60 decays by gamma radiation, so if a person is exposed (externally) to large amounts/sources – in a very short timeframe (i.e., 100r. in as little as 6 minutes, at a distance as close as 10 feet), it can cause skin burns, acute radiation sickness (ARS), or death. Even those in a 30-50 ft. radius would exhibit ARS.

Again, people very close to the source (especially with prolonged exposure) would most likely die. Most Co-60 is excreted in the feces; however, a small amount is absorbed by the liver, kidneys, and bones. Co-60 absorbed by the liver, kidneys, or bone tissue can cause cancer because of exposure to the gamma radiation.

It is recommended all public safety and private security personnel be on heightened alert and remain vigilant at critical infrastructure locations as well as high profile events. Please report any suspicious activities immediately to local authorities and the FBI.

The Florida Fusion Center will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as additional information becomes available.

***This pre-exercise information is being provided for consideration in advance of the scenario modules listed in the RAD TTX Situation Manual. You are welcome to use it as a resource to inform your discussion and decision-making throughout the exercise.***

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# [FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us) 850-410-7645