

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# Mailroom Safety News

**The Mail Center is the First Line of  
Defense**

**May 12, 2011**

## In This Issue

**Mail Bombs Are Prelude to a  
Soccer Showdown**

**FBI Examines White-Powder  
Letters Sent To D.C. Schools**

**White Powder at Illinois  
Court Sends 30 People to  
Hospital**

**Mysterious Powder Sparks  
Evacuation At Utah Federal  
Building**

**Eight-Year Disgusting-Mail  
Mystery Leads To Arrest**

**Anger As Postal Sorting Staff  
Not Warned Of Mail Bomb  
Investigations**

**Pennsylvania Woman Pleads  
To Threatening Neighbors  
And Pre-School**

**Suspicious Package Leads To  
Lockdown At Alabama Police  
Department**

**Senator's Offices**

**Suspicious Powder Sent To  
Australian Tax Office**

**Michigan Police Say Saginaw  
Correctional Facility Prisoner  
Attempted To Mail  
'Suspicious White Powder**

**Suspicious Letter Found At  
Google Headquarters In  
Mountain View**

**Oklahoma Man Pleads Guilty  
To False Hoax After Mailing  
White Powder To District  
Attorney**

**Suspicious Package Causes  
Evacuation Of Spokane  
Newspaper Offices**

**Suspicious package leads to  
evacuation of building at VA  
Medical Center in Louisiana**

**Global Postal Security: UN  
Advocates More Balanced  
Approach**

**Cardinal Says He's 'Going On  
As Normal' After Mail Threat**

Greetings:

Motives--Why are bombs, hazards, threats, and hoaxes sent through the mail? There is always some compelling reason for a perpetrator to take action. You'll see a smorgasbord of various motives at work in the news stories within. Some are religious, some sports-related, some political, some related to hate, jealousy or moral outrage. It's difficult to predict what will motivate a perpetrator and even more difficult to predict who is likely to become a target. There's a lesson there.

We publish this free newsletter because awareness can increase alertness and contribute to safety and security.

At the end of the newsletter is information regarding **Mail Security Training and Certification**. The on-demand Mail Security E!Training can be accessed by your personnel 24/7 at their convenience. We also offer on-site training and scheduled mail security seminars. Information can be found on our website through this link: [Mail Security Training](#)

Past newsletters, going back to 2003, can be viewed or downloaded at our [Newsletter Library](#).

In the **News Quick Links below** you can go to our website to view all of the recent news stories, including the stories that we didn't have space for within the newsletter. Dates and sources for each news item are included with the item on our website. You can also visit the news archives to view older stories, organized by month and year.

In the **Training Quick Links** you'll see links to information related to our Mail Security Seminars, On-Site Training, Web-delivered E!Training, and various Training Materials.

New Subscribers are always welcome. You can subscribe online from our web site or by sending us an e-mail at [service@mailroomsafety.us](mailto:service@mailroomsafety.us).

Thanks again for your interest. If we can be of assistance just drop me a note at [service@mailroomsafety.us](mailto:service@mailroomsafety.us)

**Illinois Man Admits Mailing Fake Anthrax Threat to Family**

**Prosecutors: Prison For Man Who Faked Mail Bomb Murder Attempt, Threatened Fraud Victims**

**Doubt Of Anthrax Suspect's Role Resurfaces In Lawsuit**

**Chechen Charged With Terrorism For Letter Bomb Against Newspaper That Published Muhammad Cartoon**

**1919 May Day Mail Bomb Plot Helped Spur 1920's Deadly Wall St. Blast**

**Oregon Mailman Suspended For Defecating In Yard**

**Other News We Couldn't Fit In**

**Mail Security Training and Certification**

Yours,  
Marc Lane

#### Quick Links - News

[All Recent News](#)  
[News Archives](#)

#### Quick Links - Mail Security Training

[On-Demand - Mail Security E!Training](#)  
[On-Site Training](#)  
[Training Materials](#)  
[Seminar Schedule](#)

## Mail Bombs Are Prelude to a Soccer Showdown

LONDON - In Scotland, they call it the Old Firm rivalry - more than 100 years of fierce encounters between Glasgow's top soccer clubs, Rangers and Celtic, who have made almost a closed shop of their pursuit for supremacy in the Scottish game.

But if the popular name for their clashes sounds benign, it has become a cruel euphemism over the years, conveying nothing of the hatreds and lurking violence that characterize what may be the oldest, and the most dangerous, crosstown rivalry in all of sports. If sports are a metaphor for life, the Rangers-Celtic story is one of age-old Protestant and Catholic enmities that are one of the ugliest strains in Scotland's history.

Late last week, those tensions seemed to reach a new extreme with the disclosure that four crude bombs were sent through the mail to Celtic's manager and two of the club's most prominent supporters over the last six weeks. All were intercepted or reported to the police before they could explode, but spokesmen for the police said their components were capable of inflicting serious harm. British news media reports suggested they contained flammable liquids and nails.

The police say they will deploy unprecedented numbers of officers at the Rangers-Celtic match on Sunday, a game that could go a long way toward determining the winner of the Scottish Premier League, which Rangers lead by a point over Celtic. Police spokesmen said they would arrest anybody at Rangers' Ibrox Stadium whom they catch giving voice to sectarian slogans or songs that have been the motif for the teams' games for as long as anybody can remember.

So far, there have been no arrests for the intended bombings, and the police have not disclosed whatever information they may have on suspects or possible motives. But a police official, who did not want to be identified discussing a developing

investigation, said inquiries were focused on the sectarian hatred between the clubs. The police raided homes in Glasgow on Saturday morning and arrested two men, 23 and 27, for posting "sectarian and hate-filled" comments on unspecified Web sites. More raids are expected as part of a continuing campaign focusing on online soccer forums.

According to statements by the police and the intended victims, the bombs were sent to the Celtic manager, Neil Lennon; to Paul McBride, a lawyer who has represented him; and to Trish Godman, a former politician in Scotland and a prominent Celtic fan. In interviews since the case went public Thursday, Lennon, 39, a Catholic from Northern Ireland who had a successful career as a player in England and in Scotland, said he had received bullets through the mail before the two bombs that were mailed to him.

In an interview that was quoted in most of Britain's major newspapers Saturday, he described the bombs as "a tipping point."

He added: "Hopefully, all this rubbish can stop. It has nothing to do with football, and we're all fed up with it. We're all fed up with the singing, fed up with the abuse, and we just want to do our jobs."

Suggesting the turnaround could begin with Sunday's game at Ibrox, he added: "There might be a few sympathetic voices in the ground, which would be nice. But I am not looking for sympathy. I am looking to go there and win a football match."

His counterpart at Rangers, Walter Smith, a former manager of Scotland's national team and of Everton in the English Premier League, was less sanguine. In interviews, he told reporters that the Old Firm environment was too toxic to enjoy, and that if he had not already announced his retirement from Rangers at the end of this season, the mailing of the bombs would have prompted him to question his staying on anyway.

"After the happenings of the last week, I'll be delighted that it's my last one," he said, referring to Sunday's game.

The enmities between the two clubs have their roots in the 19th century, when waves of Irish migrants fleeing famine and the seizure of their land by British authorities crossed the Irish Sea and settled in western Scotland, many around Glasgow. About three-quarters were Catholics, a quarter Protestants, and they brought with them the sectarian hatreds that had festered in Ireland.

"They decanted their historic tensions and hatreds to western Scotland and Glasgow," Tom Devine, a professor of Scottish history at the University of Edinburgh, said in telephone interview.

In time, the animosities found expression in the two soccer teams, and in the so-called "90-minute bigots" who pack the stands. Celtic, which plays in green-and-white stripes, was founded in 1888 by a Catholic priest, partly to counter religious persecution. Rangers, whose colors are the blue, white and red of Britain's Union flag, drew mostly Protestant support. From the start, the underlying loyalties - Protestant and Catholic, British and Irish - lent strong passion to their encounters. Yet these seem to have intensified even as their original causes have eased. Religion has declined in an increasingly secular Scottish society, and 13 years have passed since Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland concluded the Good Friday agreement that has brought at least a fragile peace.

That has led Devine and others who have studied the issue to say that the enmities now are more tribal than religious, and fueled by poverty and social breakdown. Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, has pockets of poverty that are among the most extreme in the developed world. The Catholic minority, particularly men from 18 to 35, has traditionally been among the poorest, and has suffered "a bigoted anti-Catholicism in certain sections of society," Devine said.

In the most deprived areas, encompassing crumbling public housing towers ravaged by joblessness, and alcohol and drug abuse, male life expectancy is 54 - four years lower than in war-torn Sudan - according to World Health Organization figures.

In the soccer rivalry, the resentments have often found expression in violence, but soccer authorities have been slow to act. Rangers were fined \$12,000 last week by UEFA, soccer's governing body in Europe, after its fans continued singing sectarian songs at high-profile matches, including one that urges those of Irish origin to "go home," and another, "The Billy Boys," that includes the refrain "We're up to our ears in Fenian blood," Fenian being a derogatory term for Irish republicans. Celtic supporters have refrains of their own, including "The Fields of Athenry," an old Irish republican ballad.

Magnus Linklater, a Scottish journalist writing in Saturday's Times of London, said the tribalism appeared to have crossed Scotland's class divide.

"Among the baying fans are lawyers and accountants, whose language is often as extreme as the thugs they stand alongside," he wrote.

Like many others, he called for the police to crack down hard, beginning with Sunday's match.

Ally McCoist, the assistant manager of Rangers and previously a longtime player for the club and for Scotland's national team, agreed.

"I honestly don't know what more the clubs can do," he said.

Scotland's first minister, Alex Salmond, who is facing a difficult election next month, blamed the violence narrowly on what he called a "lunatic element," but Devine, the historian, sees a more sinister threat.

"I think it's ironic that in a post-Christian, secular society, the problem seems to be intensifying," he said, adding: "What's happened over the last few days is unprecedented. There have been riots, but sectarianism in Scotland has never had this violence and criminality."

## FBI Examines White-Powder Letters Sent To D.C. Schools

Washington, DC--District emergency response crews, police, and the FBI's Washington Field Office are investigating suspicious letters containing powder showing up at at least 7 schools in the city.

More than three dozen letters sent to D.C. schools containing a suspicious white

powder and references to al Qaeda are being analyzed at the FBI's Virginia lab before officials ship them to Dallas, where a larger investigation is unfolding.

In Quantico, Va., agents are conducting additional tests to identify the powder, which is apparently nonhazardous, that caused several District schools to evacuate or lock down on Thursday and Friday. Forensic analysts will review the 39 letters, postmarked from Dallas, before sending them to Texas.

"We would like to catch him yesterday," said Mark White, a special agent in the FBI's Dallas office. "The investigation here will look at [the letters] for similarities and try to match them up to letters of the same type, and find clues based on what's on the letter itself and on the envelope."

White said the FBI has been working "very closely" with the U.S. Postal Service since the letters first surfaced, but declined to give details.

Last August, the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service announced a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the sender's capture after dozens of envelopes containing white powder and referring to terrorism were mailed to religious organizations and businesses around North Texas. Additional letters turned up in Austin and Lubbock in Texas, and Chicago.

In October, several D.C. schools and dozens in Houston received similar letters.

The Bureau is not sure when the spree began. "If they're associated, we're talking years, not weeks," said White.

Lindsay Godwin, a spokeswoman for the FBI Washington Field Office, said D.C. schools are the only recipients the FBI was aware of on Thursday and Friday. No new letters were received Saturday, FBI and D.C. police officials said.

The sender typed the school's addresses onto white seals and affixed them on envelopes with no return address. The letters read "AL AQEDA-FBI" and were coated in roughly two pill capsules worth of white powder, according to individuals who received them.

Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier said Thursday evening that "there is a plan in place" to keep these letters arriving at schools, but declined to elaborate on details.

After 29 letters sent D.C. emergency squads rushing around the District on Thursday, six more schools received letters on Friday, and the post office intercepted an additional four.

"We do not characterize it as a prank," said James McJunkin, the assistant director for the FBI's Washington office. "What they have done is commit a serious criminal offense."

## White Powder at Illinois Court Sends 30 People to Hospital

ELGIN - A threatening letter filled with white powder that turned much of Elgin's Civic Center in knots Monday apparently came from a prison inmate, police

announced Tuesday.

But all signs pointed to it being harmless, even though it prompted authorities to shut down the 2nd District Appellate Court building downtown and require people who had been inside to go through a decontamination process.

The letter was opened by a clerk in the appellate court at 55 Symphony Way about 11:20 a.m. Monday. Within an hour, streets in the area had been cordoned off and jammed with ambulances and fire department hazardous-materials equipment from 15 fire departments. TV news helicopters from Chicago circled overhead.

Thirty people - 25 courthouse employees plus two police officers and three firefighters who may have been exposed to the powder - were held in quarantine for hours. They then were stripped of their clothing, scrubbed with decontaminating sprays, and taken for examination to Sherman and Provena Saint Joseph hospitals in Elgin and St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates.

Elgin police spokeswoman Sue Olafson said medical personnel determined that none of the 30 people had been harmed and that all were sent home by evenings's end after being checked over.

Quick chemical tests done at the scene showed the powder did not contain anthrax germs, botulism poison or Ricin poison. However, the identity of some of the substances in the powder remained a mystery even as of Tuesday night and probably will not be known until an FBI lab finishes testing the powder by Thursday evening, Olafson said.

Until those final tests are finished, the courthouse will remain closed as a precaution, she said.

Olafson confirmed that the letter arrived at the courthouse via the U.S. Postal Service and had been sent from what she described as "a correctional institution in southern Illinois." According to one report, Appellate Court Clerk Bob Mangan said the letter came from Tamms Correctional Center and said its writer wished death for all judges.

Tamms includes a "super max" wing built in 1995 to house the state's toughest, most dangerous prisoners. "Offenders approved for placement at the Tamms C-Max have demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to conform to the requirements of a general population facility," the Illinois Department of Corrections website states.

Olafson would not confirm that Tamms was the source and would not reveal what the letter said. But she did say that fire, police and FBI officials on Monday concluded the message represented a "credible threat."

## Mysterious Powder Sparks Evacuation At Utah Federal Building

OGDEN, UT-- The James V. Hansen Federal Building was evacuated Thursday after an envelope addressed to the IRS was found to contain an unknown powder.

Approximately 200 employees were evacuated from the building at 324 25th St. and sent home. A handful were kept in the building and decontaminated by

hazardous materials teams wearing hazmat suits with air tanks.

The FBI is in charge of the investigation.

Debbie Dujanovic Bertram, spokeswoman for the Salt Lake City FBI office, said in an email Thursday evening that a field test of the substance by the Ogden Fire Department was "negative for any radiological substances." Biological testing is being conducted at a lab, and no one in the area where the substance was found has experienced any symptoms.

The incident is the second of its kind in the area in a week. On Friday, a white powdery substance was found at an IRS building in Farr West. The substance turned out to be harmless.

Chad Porter, of the Forest Service office on the third floor, said an email advised workers the white powdery substance was on the sixth floor in an IRS office and gave employees the option of leaving.

Then an alarm sounded and the building was evacuated, he said, with everyone sent home on administrative leave.

Bertram said all of the employees who were quarantined inside the federal building had been or were in the process of being released from the scene and sent home as of 4:30 p.m. The incident was reported at 12:27 p.m.

## Eight-Year Disgusting-Mail Mystery Leads To Arrest

ST. LOUIS · It started with a simple white business-size envelope.

Addressed to a Jennings woman in a ghostly scribble, it contained a simple message: "(expletive) you."

That envelope, and its puzzling note, began a nearly eight-year cascade of harassing mail to the woman, her friends, her neighbors, the FBI and television stations.

Almost all were yellow "bubble mailers" with Purple Heart postage stamps, often festooned with strange writing and pasted-on pornographic pictures. They contained feces, used condoms, used feminine hygiene products and even a white powder that investigators thought was meant to simulate anthrax.

All the while, the original recipient - who said she prayed for the day when her tormenter would be caught - was also being blamed. She was listed in the return addresses on many of the letters as the sender.

"I just couldn't figure it out. Why is the person doing it?" she wondered.

The mystery unraveled last month with the arrest of a former neighbor - whom she did not know - on three federal misdemeanor charges of mailing injurious articles.

The indictment, filed March 24, says that Vanessa V. Bell, 48, mailed one package of disgusting contents Feb. 17 and two more Feb. 23. The recipients were not

identified in court records.

But other court documents and interviews with some of Bell's alleged victims suggest she was lashing out because she felt the neighbor had been somehow invading her thoughts.

No Halloween prank

The story revolves around a four-plex of apartments on a Jennings street lined with modest brick and wood-frame homes.

The original target of the hate mail agreed to speak to a reporter but asked that her name not be used out of fear that someone else might be involved, and of a reluctance to inflame a situation that makes little sense.

She said she thought the first envelope was a Halloween prank, as it arrived in October 2003.

But the next envelope brought the first in a series of the objectionable personal materials. Some included notes, 'saying my name but nothing that makes sense to me,' the woman explained.

The sending of envelopes containing white powder, with her return address, ramped up the interest of law enforcement.

"The police come like they were going to kick my door in," she said. They demanded to know: "Why are you sending these letters?"

Her denials, she said, were met with skepticism.

But at that point, police had little reason to suspect anyone else.

Over time, the finish of her new white Jeep Liberty was keyed. Someone tried to break in to it. Someone took the hubcap emblems, worth "\$23 a pop."

And worse.

"I'd wake up in the morning, and there was paint all over the hood - red paint," she complained. "And the letters kept coming - they would come almost every two weeks, maybe every week sometimes."

Fear permeated her life. "I couldn't sleep any more," she said. "I was up at 4 or 5 in the morning, peeping through the blinds."

Mostly, the notes the woman received contained "jibber jabber," she said, but there would also be the names of friends and her boyfriend, and snippets of her apparently overheard phone conversations.

Although she moved twice, the letters always found her.

In University City, they arrived covered with graphic pornography.

She told postal workers, "I can't believe you would deliver this stuff." She said they told her they had no choice.

At least the envelopes were distinctive, so she could throw them away unopened.

Dozens upon dozens of other yellow "bubble mailers" arrived through mail slots all over the St. Louis area over the next few years, almost all with Purple Heart stamps and the same handwriting,

The police, she said, showed little sympathy until a sympathetic Breckenridge Hills police officer tried to help her get it stopped.

She even took a polygraph test for authorities and gave a DNA sample to help prove her innocence.

Finally, an arrest

The letters gradually tapered off but began again this year.

Postal Inspector John Jackman narrowed the drop-off points to just three mailboxes, one downtown and two on Natural Bridge Road.

Jackman identified a suspect by talking to Bell's former landlord, Sylvester Williams, who had previously complained about tenants receiving the bubble mailers. Williams immediately offered Bell's name. He said Bell thought that one of her neighbors had been listening to her conversations through the walls.

The neighbor he mentioned was the woman who got the first mailer and the initial blame.

Postal Inspector Todd Loos was watching mailboxes and discovered one of the packages on Feb. 17, shortly after Bell had been in the area. The envelope was labeled with several strange messages, including "jealous of V," court documents show.

Inspectors then tailed Bell until they spotted her appearing to drop off two envelopes on Feb. 23, court documents show. Then they confronted her at a check cashing business where she works.

"There's a reason why I did it," she told them, before saying she was "glad this happened" and then stopping the questioning by asking to talk to her lawyer.

A 'cuckoo' motive

News of Bell's arrest didn't make things much clearer to her alleged target. The woman said she has never seen Bell, nor heard her name before hearing it from postal inspectors.

She has been told that Bell thought that she was "picking on her" and "listening to her with a special device. It really sounded real cuckoo," she said.

Officials also told her that Bell believed she had placed Bell's name on some type of medical donor list.

Bell, who now lives in the 5900 block of Saloma Avenue in St. Louis, pleaded not guilty March 30.

Reached by phone, her lawyer, Kristy Ridings said, "The judge has ordered she

undergo a psychiatric evaluation and treatment, and we're exploring that aspect of the case now." Ridings declined to make Bell available for an interview.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sauer, who is handling the case, declined to comment.

Dan Taylor, spokesman for the Postal Inspection Service, said that although investigators believe Bell was responsible for the white powder scares, she is unlikely to be prosecuted for that because of statutes of limitations.

Taylor said that he thinks there were at least six victims of the mailings, although there may be others.

Two people filed for court orders of protection against Bell just days before she was indicted. One, a 62-year-old former neighbor, complained that she had received four envelopes this year, including one with waste material and one containing a threatening letter.

That woman's daughter said that her own car was splashed with paint and that she received a waste-filled envelope in her post office box. In an interview, the daughter said that she has never met Bell.

Another current resident of the apartments told a reporter she also received several such envelopes.

Taylor said the packages were "not just disgusting" but "a potential biohazard for postal employees." He asked, "Who knows how many postal employees could have been sickened if that leaked through?"

## Anger As Postal Sorting Staff Not Warned Of Mail Bomb Investigations

Scotland--POSTAL union leaders have voiced concern that sorting office staff were not warned about the police parcel bomb investigations.

John Brown, CWU Scotland regional secretary, said workers could have been put at risk, and he is demanding answers. He said: "These parcels are designed to do damage to the recipient, but they will be handled by dozens of postal workers in workplaces where hundreds more staff are, not to mention the proximity to members of the public.

"We're also very alarmed by the handling of this case, which we believe may have breached health and safety rules and unnecessarily put postal workers at risk. No information was shared with staff as late as yesterday.

"The safety of postal workers and the public is our main concern and we are working with Royal Mail on this. We will be seeking answers about the handling of the case in coming days."

Labour candidate for Maryhill and Springburn Patricia Ferguson said an "effective system" had to be put in place so that postal workers were not placed at unnecessary risk.

## Pennsylvania Woman Pleads To Threatening Neighbors And Pre-School

WEST CHESTER, PA - The prosecutor assigned to the case of a West Pikeland woman who sent harassing letters to her former neighbors and who also mailed a bomb threat to a Uwchlan pre-school on Thursday credited the work of a township police officer in solving the unusual, but frightening, case.

Assistant District Attorney Michelle Frei said that were it not for the efforts of Uwchlan Officer Diane Ahern, the identity of the author of the threats might still be unknown and the victims might still live in fear.

Ahern's dogged police work, Frei told Common Pleas Court Judge Howard F. Riley Jr., "has finally made them feel safe again in their neighborhood."

Frei made her comments during a brief hearing in Riley's courtroom at which Susan Meyers, the author of the letters, pleaded guilty to charges of terroristic threats, stalking, and threatening to use weapons of mass destruction. In exchange for her plea, Meyers, 53, was sentenced to four years probation.

None of the people to whom Meyers sent the letters, over a period of two years between February 2008 and August of 2010, attended the hearing, although they were made aware of it and the sentence that Meyers would receive, Frei said.

The prosecutor told Riley said that she had spoken "at length" with all those concerned, but that they told her they "want to have no contact with (Meyers.) They did not even want to see her here today."

A visibly shaken Meyers said little during the 15-minute proceeding, answering Riley's questions about her decision to plead guilty in a hushed and choked voice. Trembling and frequently wiping tears from her eyes and sniffing, she was accompanied in court by her attorney, Thomas Ramsay of Lionville, and her husband, Dr. Fred Meyers, a noted Downingtown physician.

Standing at the podium in front of Riley, dressed in a modest tan suit with her dark hair pulled back in a bun, Susan Meyers carried with her a piece of paper from which she intended to read a statement of apology and remorse, but was not given the chance, Ramsay said afterwards.

"She intended to apologize and tell the judge how really bad she feels about what she did to her family, and to the other families involved," Ramsay said. He noted that Meyers had previously written letters of apology to each of her victims, as part of the diversionary sentencing program she initially was accepted into.

In April, Meyers was approved for entry into the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program, which allows first offenders to have their criminal records erased if they complete a probationary period and other court supervised requirements. That decision, however, was rescinded by the District Attorney's Office when the person overseeing such approvals, First Assistant District Attorney Patrick Carmody, was informed of the bomb threat by a reporter.

Carmody said he had not known of the charges involving the bomb scare, and that Meyers would not have been accepted for ARD if he had.

According to the facts as presented by Frei, Meyers mailed a total of 13 anonymous letters to people who she knew from the years she spent living with her husband and two sons in the Century Oaks development in Lionville. The letters contained obscenities and threats, warning the recipients to "watch your back" and telling them, "You deserve what's coming to you."

In addition, Meyers sent a letter to the Great Beginnings Christian Pre-School, which her children had attended previously, stating that there was a bomb hidden in the school. The letter was sent to coincide with an anniversary reunion the school celebrated in November 2008, Frei said.

## Suspicious Package Leads To Lockdown At Alabama Police Department

FOLEY, AL--Foley police responded to a 911 call about a suspicious letter with a powdery substance that was dropped off at a home.

The officer sealed the letter in a plastic bag and brought it to police headquarters. Worried the plastic bag may not be sufficient enough to contain the substance, supervisors called in the HAZMAT team and placed the building on lockdown.

Tests determined the suspicious powder is cornstarch.

Police believe whoever sent the letter had bad intentions. The case is still under investigation.

## Suspicious Letters With Powder Sent To Massachusetts Attorney General and Senator's Offices

Boston, MA--Police and hazmat teams were busy yesterday as two suspicious letters were delivered to the offices of Attorney General Martha Coakley and Senator Scott Brown. Both letters were enclosed in envelopes with a "white powdery substance" within an hour of each other. The substances, in both cases, were harmless.

Coakley's office, located at the John W. McCormack Building One Ashburton Place, got the first envelope and authorities arrived around 11:20 a.m. An hour later, Brown's office at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building.

The letters were similar. "Looks like the same type of handwriting, so it's probably the same scribble inside with whatever threat," said Dist. Chief Dennis Costin of the Boston Fire Department.

A third envelope with suspicious powder on it was found at the clerk's office in Franklin County Court House in Greenfield. It, too, tested negative for hazardous materials.

Reports of this kind are common after significant terror-related events. "I expect that all the cuckoo's are going to come out of the woodwork with the news we just got about Osama Bin Laden," said Jisele Thompson of Greenfield.

## Suspicious Powder Sent To Australian Tax Office

Canberra, AU--The Australian Taxation Office has faced three "white powder" scares in six months but defends its approach to mail security.

About 700 workers were evacuated from the Penrith office after an envelope containing suspicious powder arrived in October.

The same office was targeted in February, with staff forced to leave the building for about three hours after an unidentified white powder was found in an envelope.

The third incident occurred a few weeks ago when a packet containing white powder was discovered among tax papers sent to the Albury office.

A spokesman said, "The ATO has been using specialised mail opening and processing services for several years," he said.

"These services have processes in place to deal with suspicious mail items. These processes were developed and are implemented under the guidance of the relevant emergency and law enforcement authorities. All recent incidents were identified and managed using these processes under the supervision of the relevant emergency and law enforcement authorities. We review these processes continuously to identify ways to reduce any risks to people and to minimise disruptions."

Meanwhile, the Australian Crime Commission and Civil Aviation Safety Authority are looking to outsource mail security screening, preparing to spend up to \$600,000. "Agencies are responsible for the health and safety of employees at work," according to tender documents. "This responsibility extends to situations where employees are under threat of violence because of their duties." The commission requires services for its Adelaide and Canberra offices, while the authority needs screening for its Canberra building.

## Michigan Police Say Saginaw Correctional Facility Prisoner Attempted To Mail 'Suspicious White Powder' With A Threatening Letter

TITTABAWASSEE TWP., Michigan - The mysterious white powder and "threatening letter" that led to the evacuation of the Saginaw Correctional Facility mailroom in Tittabawassee Township about 9 a.m. Wednesday came from an inmate, state police investigators say.

"Alert prison officials intercepted the letter which had not yet been circulated beyond the prison grounds," state police officials said in a Wednesday evening

press release.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Materials Response Unit and teams from five municipal fire departments said preliminary analysis of the substance indicates it "did not contain any known hazardous materials or pose immediate danger."

A state police detective is investigating the matter and was not available Thursday.

It is unknown who the package was addressed to and what the threatening nature of the letter was.

The Saginaw Correctional Facility, located at 9625 Pierce in Tittabawassee Township, houses over 1,200 level I, II and IV prisoners.

## Suspicious Letter Found At Google Headquarters In Mountain View

Mountain View, CA--The FBI is investigating a suspicious letter someone sent to Google's (GOOG) headquarters in Mountain View on Friday.

Officials would not say what was in the letter or provide any more details on their investigation. They would only say the letter, which arrived at the Googleplex via the U.S. Postal Service, was discovered during the company's regular processing of the mail and was considered "suspicious."

An FBI spokesman was not sure whether the campus, located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, was evacuated when agents responded on Friday afternoon.

Google representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Oklahoma Man Pleads Guilty To False Hoax After Mailing White Powder To District Attorney

OKLAHOMA CITY - An Oklahoma man has pleaded guilty after officials say he mailed white powder to the district attorney in Comanche County.

The U.S. attorney for the western district of Oklahoma says 41-old Lloyd Alan Cooper, of Lawton, pleaded guilty this week to conveying a false hoax threat to the Comanche County District Attorney's office.

An indictment alleges that Cooper mailed white powder to the district attorney in November along a note that read, "GOD HELP US."

Cooper faces up to five years in federal prison and up to \$250,000 in fines. He could also be required to pay restitution.

His sentencing hearing will be set in about 90 days.

A spokesman for U.S. attorney Sanford Coats says Cooper is in custody. Cooper's attorney, Susan Otto, declined to comment.

## Suspicious Package Causes Evacuation Of Spokane Newspaper Offices

Spokane, WA--Hundreds of The Spokesman-Review's employees were evacuated this afternoon after someone brought a suspicious package into the lobby of the downtown building.

The Explosive Disposal Unit responded and determined the package was not a threat.

According to newspaper officials, the incident occurred at approximately 2:50. A woman entered the front door and placed the package the size of an empty toilet paper roll on the front desk. She said someone outside told her to give the package to an unnamed reporter, then she ran out of the building. The package was wrapped in a blue business envelope.

The guard who received the package took it to the building's loading dock, following the company's protocol.

## Suspicious package leads to evacuation of building at VA Medical Center in Louisiana

PINEVILLE, LA - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Alexandria closed its medical center in Pineville for about four hours today, April 18, after employees and patients were exposed to an unknown "white powder and greenish substance."

An employee in the VA's business office received a piece of mail Friday afternoon featuring the unknown substance and filed it away. Over the weekend, she began showing "flu-like symptoms," said Tammie Arnold, the VA's public affairs officer, and the employee reported the package to her supervisor Monday morning.

Arnold said VA Medical Center officials then called in the VA's emergency preparedness decontamination team and sealed off the first floor of the hospital. Hazmat teams from Louisiana State Police and the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office assisted, as did Alpine Fire Department and officials from the Louisiana Department of Public Health.

Some of those evacuated from the building waited outside while authorities - some dressed in full gear to protect from possible contamination - investigated.

"We drill for this every year," Arnold said. "We have extensive training. There are a lot of resources put into this."

Those resources paid off on Monday, she said. A total of 45 patients and staff members who potentially were exposed to the substance went through a precautionary decontamination.

"We want to make sure we have the patients' and staff's safety in mind," Arnold said.

The employee who became sick processes "hundreds of pieces of mail every day," Arnold said, and though the employee noticed the substance, it was a typical VA income update form that wasn't accompanied by a threatening letter or anything else that was suspicious.

The package was sent on Monday to a Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals lab for testing, and Arnold said VA officials are hoping to get a determination about the substance as early as this morning.

Louisiana State Police Troop E spokesman Scott Moreau said although the sample has been sent to a Shreveport lab, there doesn't appear to be any major issues with the letter.

"There is no indication through our investigation that leads us to believe that this is a true anthrax incident," Moreau said. "It is believed to be a non-event."

Although Arnold admitted the entire exercise was "pretty exciting," it also went smoothly.

"Everything worked well," Arnold said. "All the emergency plans and the decontamination team, everything worked well. ... Our team just came through with flying colors."

## Global Postal Security: UN Advocates More Balanced Approach

The United Nations Universal Postal Union (UPU) has stressed the need to ensure that security measures do not hamper the movement of mail or undermine the growth of the postal sector, after a group of experts met to discuss safety standards in the industry.

The meeting of the UPU committee comprising postal operators and international organisations was prompted by the introduction last November of new security measures by the United States Transportation Security Agency (TSA) for US-bound international mail after two bomb packages from Yemen were intercepted in October.

The measures forced the national postal services of UPU member countries to change their operational procedures overnight, according to a news release issued by the agency after last week's meeting.

Some postal services stopped accepting or delayed US-bound mail items and faced higher transportation costs and the shutdown of major mail transit hubs, causing mail backlogs around the world.

The Director General of the UPU, Edouard Dayan, said he fully understands the need for heightened security, but noted that permanent security measures could cause problems if they compromise the principles of freedom of transit and a universal postal service.

"Security concerns should not restrict Posts' ability to move the mail and the sector's future growth," stated Mr. Dayan, who recently met with the head of the TSA to discuss the issue. "A better understanding of the postal business and a balanced approach to security are required."

The UPU has worked with the TSA to relax the measures for low-risk mail. While some countries resumed full service at the end of March and early April, others are still experiencing mail blockages or delays.

Fuelled by e-commerce and trade expansion, postal services saw their express and parcel volumes rise by more than 15 per cent in 2010 compared to 2009, according to research carried out by UPU. In addition, postal services worldwide send more than 418 million letters, packages and express mail pieces to the US every year.

"It is essential to work together at the international level to define global standards in this area that apply to all actors rather than having individual countries or supranational bodies setting standards for everyone," said Mr. Dayan.

The recommendations from last week's meeting of the UPU inter-committee security group, which took place at the agency's headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, are expected by the end of the year.

## Cardinal Says He's 'Going On As Normal' After Mail Threat

Scotland--The leader of Scotland's Catholics today said he was carrying on as normal despite being targeted by Protestant extremists who sent him a live bullet through the post.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien opened the letter containing the bullet himself after it arrived at his official residence in Morningside.

Details of the incident emerged as police continue investigations into lethal packages sent to Celtic manager Neil Lennon, his lawyer Paul McBride QC and Celtic- supporting former Labour MSP Trish Godman.

The cardinal has also been warned he could be a target again.

Cardinal O'Brien, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, was sent the bullet shortly before the visit of Pope Benedict XVI last year. The church decided not to publicize the incident, fearing it would detract from the visit.

The cardinal, however, spoke out following the spate of letter bombs sent to leading Celtic figures.

The letter is understood to have been headed "No surrender" and warned the cardinal: "If you bring your Pope here . . . this is what he will get."

The senders reportedly claimed to be the Protestant Action Group, an old cover name for the Protestant paramilitary group the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Cardinal O'Brien said he had opened the letter himself. He said: "I open all my own mail."

The bullet and the hate message fell out of the envelope.

He said: "I immediately phoned the police and they took over.

"This was a horrific incitement to violence and deeply regrettable, but in the end it did not detract from the welcome the Pope received from the vast majority of Scots of all and no religious affiliations."

Cardinal O'Brien insisted he was not changing his day-to-day activities because of the threat.

He said: "I'm just going on as normal. It's not made any difference to my way of life. I'm just getting on with my work.

"I'm just sad that this sort of thing can and does happen in our country."

Police, including the Met's anti-terror squad, carried out an investigation but were not able to trace those responsible.

Police were today continuing their investigations into the Celtic bomb plot. The packages sent to Neil Lennon, Paul McBride and Trish Godman, thought to contain nails and liquid explosives, have been described by police as "viable devices capable of causing significant harm and injury to individuals".

Catholic Church spokesman Peter Kearney confirmed that he and Cardinal O'Brien had been warned to be "cautious when dealing with mail" by police.

Mr Kearney said the arrival of the bullet had been "an extremely shocking experience".

He said: "It happened the week before the Pope's visit. The bullet was sent and accompanied by a very threatening letter.

The feeling at the time was we were happy to leave it in the hands of the police."

Last year, Mr Kearney was at the center of controversy after claiming anti-Catholic bigotry was a major problem in Scotland.

Today he said: "The intimidation has reached a new level and obviously it is a very, very worrying one.

"What I said was with an incident like that in mind. I was criticised with some saying I had overplayed it."

He said he hoped people now understood the context to his comments.

## Illinois Man Admits Mailing Fake Anthrax Threat to Family

EAST ST. LOUIS · Gary James Smith, 67, pleaded guilty Friday to two federal

crimes and admitted mailing a letter to a family that contained a white powder and threats about anthrax, the U.S. Attorney's office said.

The June 19, 2010 letter contained threats like, "Your hands are on fire," "You now have a disease (sic)," and "Go to the hospital now," according to Smith's indictment.

Smith, who lived in Livingston at the time, mailed the letter to a family in the same town, prosecutors say. He used "food ingredients to mimic the anthrax," prosecutors said. They did not give a motive.

Smith could face up to 10 years in prison at his sentencing August 8 on the two charges: mailing a threatening communication and making a false threat.

## Prosecutors: Prison For Man Who Faked Mail Bomb Murder Attempt, Threatened Fraud Victims

Seattle, WA--When investigators arrived at Kevin Williams' Chehalis home in 2007, they didn't quite know what to make of the man who'd miraculously survived an attempt on his life.

Williams, an unemployed logger and self-styled private investigator, said he'd been standing next to his mailbox when it exploded.

The bomb sent chunks of mailbox more than 100 feet, and Williams knew why it was planted. He'd learned too much about an eight-figure Ponzi scheme, and those behind it were out to get him.

The truth was, a federal jury found four years later, that Williams' story was complete nonsense.

He'd planted the bomb in a desperate effort to scam victims of the Ponzi scheme out of more money. He threatened them, and, federal prosecutors contend, was prepared to carry out those threats.

"In his odyssey from marijuana-smoking and methamphetamine-using unemployed logger to fraudster and extortionist, Williams threatened to kill, injure, destroy or harm" dozens of people, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Reese Jennings told the court.

Williams' attorney described him as a delusional man, one in the thralls of drug abuse who posed no threat to anyone but himself. Williams, the attorney told the court, promised to solve the D.B. Cooper disappearance - a long-unsolved skyjacking that occurred in Washington - if he couldn't crack the Ponzi scheme.

For his part, Williams, 46, has since apologized, in a way, for his actions, offering his "deepest apologies to each and every individual directly and/or indirectly involved with this case."

On Friday, a federal judge in Tacoma will decide how long Williams should spend in prison. Prosecutors have asked for 10 years; his attorney has suggested one year in custody would be sufficient.

'It was all a lie'

Following a jury trial, Williams was convicted on nine counts, including three counts of wire fraud and possession of a pipe bomb.

In the summer of 2007, Williams was unemployed and logging a Chehalis property he'd promised to buy when he became obsessed with a massive, Atlanta, Ga.,-based pyramid scheme that was coming apart.

The International Management Associates scheme led by one Kirk Sean Wright targeted the wealthy and professional athletes, as well as smaller-time investors. Among the latter were Williams' brother-in-law and stepmother.

All told, Wright's scheme is thought to have cost his victims \$90 million, Jennings told the court. Wright killed himself in 2008, hanging himself on an improvised rope in his jail cell.

According to the prosecution's version of events, Williams decided he could, and should, make some money off the International Management Associates prosecution.

Williams contacted fraud victims, attorneys handling the hedge fund's bankruptcy and the FBI demanding money in exchange for information that supposedly "solved" the case, Jennings told the court.

"The truth, it turned out, was that Williams had nothing to offer," Jennings told the court. "It was all a lie."

Speaking with Wright's victims, Williams said the FBI, bankruptcy trustees and their attorneys were trying to fleece them as Wright had. He did so, the prosecutor said, in the hope that they would pay him the money he believed he was owed for his work on the case.

Williams went so far as to recast himself as a private investigation - he changed his business license from firewood sales to the Eye for and Eye Foundation. His answering machine message, which reflected his new profession, ended with "the right people love us, the right people respect us, and the right people fear us."

"Williams lied about who he was, what he had done, his expenses, and made other false, inflated, and wild claims to his victims," Jennings continued.

A few of Wright's victims turned to Williams, who turned on any who expressed disbelief in his claims. Per the prosecutor's description, Williams "browbeat" the desperate people and called them names.

What he didn't find, though, was anyone willing to pay him upfront for the information he claimed to hold on International Management Associates' hidden assets.

His finances in trouble, Williams was unable to pay for the Chehalis property were he was living and was in danger of being kicked off the land. His solution - described by Jennings as "delusional, desperate, and dangerous - was to stage an assassination attempt.

"Williams hoped that, by staging the assassination, the FBI and others would be convinced that the information he offered for sale was so powerful that members of a shadowy conspiracy to kill him rather than allow him to sell the information," Jennings told the court.

With an assist from others living on the Chandler Road property, Williams contrived to detonate a pipe bomb on the property and then report it as a failed hit on Williams. His friends would support his statements to police; in return, he'd take them to Atlanta to pickup the payment that would be forthcoming after the assassination attempted established his bona fides as a tipster.

If the fraud victims still wouldn't pay, Williams planned to acquire a cane gun - a single-shot pistol concealed in a cane - dress as a priest and kill one in a restaurant, Jennings told the court.

Williams also instructed one of his conspirators to kill his brother-in-law, the prosecutor said, as Williams was convinced he was standing in the way of his payday. They would all then flee to Belize.

On Oct. 21, 2007, Williams lit off the pipe bomb in a mailbox in front of his home.

#### Story unravels

Lewis County deputies and U.S. Postal Service inspectors responded to the scene; by then, Williams had cleaned up the bomb parts. According to prosecutors, Williams friends initially stuck to the story that Williams had been the victim of a bombing; a TV news crew arrived and recorded Williams posing with an assault rifle while spinning fiction of an attack on him.

Three days later, investigators arrived at Williams' home and, believing he had been the victim of an attack, set about searching the area as well as his home. Agents found a "zip" gun - an illegal, single-shot weapon that is essentially a firing chamber and short length of tube - and confiscated it.

Agents grew suspicious in the weeks that followed after Williams threatened to shoot down a Lewis County Sheriff's Office airplane and pointed a rifle at a process server, Jennings told the court.

Analysis of Williams' clothing failed to support his claim that he'd been blown back when his mailbox exploded. More tellingly, investigators determined that the explosion would have killed or injured Williams if it had occurred when he was standing at the mailbox.

At trial, prosecutors successfully argued Williams also continued trying to shake down victims of the hedge fund fraud without success. Frustrated, Williams sent increasingly threatening messages to the fraud victims.

"Believe me gentlemen, I won't wait for karma to come to you, I'll bring (it) to you myself immediately," Williams wrote, according to prosecutors' statements. "So you all better start paying attention to everything around you because hell is soon to be in full session."

In April 2008, Williams was arrested in Atlanta with guns and bomb-making supplies, Jennings told the court. There, he attended Wright's trial for several days until he was arrested and subsequently charged with federal firearms crimes.

Williams was subsequently convicted on the gun charges and sentenced to probation as the prosecution was launched in Washington.

A 'paranoid drug user' or a threat?

Convicted at trial earlier this year of three counts of wire fraud, various firearms crimes and an extortion-related offense, prosecutors have asked that Williams be sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison.

"The United States submits Williams is a dangerous man, a danger to the community, and someone who has no respect for the law," Jennings told the court.

"Williams' scheme was real, and it was undeniably violent," the prosecutor continued. "Williams built a bomb, blew up his mailbox, lied to law enforcement, accused innocent people of committing a crime he himself committed, and then tricked law enforcement into conducting an extensive investigation."

Writing the court, defense attorney Phil Brennan noted that Williams had lived a relatively uneventful life prior the summer of 2007, when he began using drugs heavily.

The resulting paranoia and delusions prompted him to concoct an outlandish scheme, Brennan continued. In seven months, Williams changed from a "good citizen" into a "paranoid drug user."

Brennan noted that Williams demanded the FBI give him a new motorcycle if he solved the hedge fund fraud. If he failed to do so, he would provide investigators with help solving the D.B. Cooper case.

The attorney noted that Williams' has led an "exemplary" life since he was convicted on firearms offenses in Atlanta. While on probation, his attorney told the court, Williams has not run afoul of the conditions set out by the court.

"He presents no danger to the public and warrants a sentence that involves minimal jail time, to be followed by the same type of supervision that he has proven himself capable of satisfying," Brennan told the court.

Writing on his own behalf, Williams apologized for the trouble caused by the prosecution and portrayed himself as a person who was once an upstanding member of his community.

"I will forever be ashamed and embarrassed by the crimes that I was charged with," Williams told the court.

"I offer my deepest apologies to each and every individual directly and/or indirectly involved with this case," he continued. "I apologize for any purposeful disrespect or unpurposeful disrespect that was directed at anyone involved with this case."

Williams is scheduled to be sentenced Friday morning by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Bryan. He is not currently jailed.

## Doubt Of Anthrax Suspect's Role Resurfaces In Lawsuit

Palm Beach, FL--Add Maureen Stevens to the list of people who don't believe troubled federal biodefense researcher Bruce Ivins killed her husband and four others in the 2001 anthrax attacks.

In court papers filed this month, attorneys representing Bob Stevens' widow said they had gathered evidence that disputes FBI claims Ivins sent five anthrax-laced letters to politicians and media outlets, including the Boca Raton-based National Enquirer, where Stevens worked as a photo editor. Ivins killed himself in 2008 as prosecutors were preparing to indict him.

Maureen Stevens' attorneys originally agreed to accept the findings of the estimated \$100 million FBI investigation. But when Ivins' bosses at the military lab in Maryland insisted under oath that he lacked the time, equipment and know-how to produce the anthrax, the attorneys said they could no longer accept the findings.

They asked for permission to dispute Ivins' role in Stevens' death when the \$50 million lawsuit against the federal government goes to trial in December or January. U.S. District Judge Daniel Hurley, who will decide the case, approved their request.

That doesn't mean Ivins won't loom large during the trial.

Attorney Richard Schuler, who is representing Maureen Stevens and her children in the much-delayed lawsuit, said that as a practical matter, the government is stuck with the FBI's findings. As a legal tactic, blaming Ivins is important for federal prosecutors, he said.

While attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice declined comment, Schuler said their main defense is that the federal government isn't responsible for intentional acts. If they can convince Hurley that the researcher acted alone for his own twisted reasons, they believe they can escape liability.

According to court documents, Ivins' supervisors at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., don't believe Ivins was responsible.

During a deposition, Dr. William Byrne strongly disputed the FBI's conclusions.

"I don't believe that Bruce Ivins was the perpetrator," said Byrne, a former chief of bacteriology at the institute. It would have been impossible for Ivins to use lab equipment without being detected, he said.

Further, even if Ivins wasn't seen by fellow researchers, he would have left evidence, Byrne said. Anthrax dust would have covered the machine he used to produce the powder.

"It was so light, it was virtually impossible to weigh it - it was like a mist," he testified. "It would have contaminated every bit of space inside the (machine) and you could not have gotten rid of all of it."

And though Ivins was a highly regarded scientist, he wasn't capable of doing what

agents say he did, Byrne said. "To my knowledge, Dr. Ivins did not have the lab skills to make the fine powdered anthrax used in the letters."

Gerald Andrews, also a chief of bacteriology when Ivins worked at the institute, agreed. During the 16 years he knew the researcher, Ivins never showed "that he understood weaponization technology of anthrax spores," Andrews said.

He also said that before Ivins overdosed on Tylenol, he passed two polygraph tests while asserting his innocence.

Andrews said the FBI grossly underestimated the time it would take to produce the amount of anthrax used in the letter attacks. Ivins would have needed six months to a year, working almost full-time, and someone would have had to help him, Andrews said.

Both bacteriologists testified that a variety of people used the lab. "We had people from Egypt, Poland, India, Iran, Latvia and China," Byrne said.

Stevens' lawyers are not the first people to question the veracity of the FBI investigation. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., whose office received one of the letters, doubted the lone-madman theory.

"If he is the one who sent the letter, I do not believe in any way, shape or manner that he is the only person involved in this attack on Congress and the American people," Leahy said.

In February, a panel assembled by the National Academy of Sciences questioned the FBI's finding that the anthrax must have come from Ivins' lab. The FBI responded that the investigation went beyond scientific evidence and included interviews and other information.

In hopes of silencing the ongoing criticism, the Government Accountability Office has begun yet another review of the FBI's investigation.

Still, Schuler said, Maureen Stevens' case against the government doesn't turn on Ivins' guilt or innocence.

At its core, the case is relatively simple, he said: The government was negligent in Bob Stevens' death because it didn't provide sufficient security at the labs where anthrax was kept. In court papers, the government concedes that before the attacks, Fort Detrick didn't have cameras to monitor the labs and didn't search workers for pathogens when they were leaving the base.

"We just have to show that there was bad security," Schuler said. "We don't have to solve the crime."

Likewise, Schuler said, prosecutors won't have to prove that Ivins sent the letters, only that the government wasn't responsible. "They don't have to prove that he absolutely did it."

## Chechen Charged With Terrorism For Letter Bomb Against Newspaper That Published Muhammad Cartoon

COPENHAGEN- A Chechen-born man was charged with terrorism by Danish prosecutors Tuesday for allegedly preparing a letter bomb that had likely been intended for a newspaper known for publishing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

Denmark's top prosecutor Joergen Steen Soerensen said Lers Doukayev had wanted to "seriously frighten the population" and destabilize the country.

The explosive device went off as Doukayev was assembling it in a Copenhagen hotel last September. It was filled with steel pellets and contained triacetone tripe oxide, or TATP, which terrorists used in bombs that killed 52 people in London in 2005.

Doukayev, a boxer born in the Russian republic of Chechnya and currently a resident of Belgium, received cuts on his face. No one else was injured.

Doukayev was arrested in a park near the hotel shortly after the small blast.

If found guilty he faces a life sentence, though generally this is reduced in Denmark to 16 years in prison. A trial is set to start May 16.

Denmark's intelligence service has said that Doukayev was likely operating alone and was not part of a wider network.

Four men were arrested in Copenhagen on Dec. 29 on suspicion of planning a shooting spree inside the Copenhagen offices of the Jyllands-Posten.

## 1919 May Day Mail Bomb Plot Helped Spur 1920's Deadly Wall St. Blast

New York City--On April 27, 1919, postal clerk Charles Caplan discovered that 16 small identically wrapped parcels were short of postage. So he set them aside, to be returned to sender, which, according to the labels, was "Novelty Samples, Gimbel Bros. 32nd St. and Broadway, New York City."

Caplan didn't think much more about them, until April 30, around 2. a.m., when he was on his subway ride home, reading the newspaper.

One story jolted him out of his seat. It told of a package delivered a day earlier to the Atlanta home of former U.S. Sen. Thomas Hardwick, of Georgia.

A maid had unwrapped the package and unleashed an explosion that shattered almost everything in the room. The survival of the maid and Hardwick's wife was considered a miracle.

What grabbed Caplan was the description of the bomb. It matched the 16 postage-due packages he had set aside. He got off the train and rushed back to the post office.

Unwittingly, Caplan foiled what would become known as the May Day Red terror

plot.

Among the 36 total mail-bomb targets were J.P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller and Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Investigators examined the "infernal machines," and found them to be the work of sophisticated craftsmen. Seven inches long by three wide, they held a wooden tube filled with acid, which served as a detonator, and dynamite.

Targets, timing, and the construction of the bombs all pointed to the radical menace - anarchists, Bolsheviks, communists, socialists, labor groups such as the Industrial Workers of the World, popularly known as the "Wobblies."

The day itself, May 1, was significant, since for many it is an international celebration for workers. The bombs appeared to have been timed to reach their targets on that date.

"Reds planned May Day Murders," boomed headlines.

Revolution had been in the air for months, snowballing since the end of World War I. Subversives lived in the shadows, and seemed to be everywhere, from the Seattle steelyards, to the Pennsylvania coal fields, even in the drawing rooms of Park Ave. "parlor Reds." Their goal was the violent overthrow of the American way of life.

"We will dynamite you!" shrieked anarchist posters, just one of the frequent, scattered threats that had been coming through 1919. But the May Day bombs were the first sign of an organized assault on the nation and they sparked a panic, wrote Robert Murray in "Red Scare: A study in national hysteria, 1919-1920."

American leaders resolved to root out the Reds, wherever they might be.

Raids started that first day in May when about 400 soldiers and sailors crashed a party to celebrate the opening of offices for the New York Call, a socialist paper. They wrecked the office and sent a few of the revelers to the hospital. In Cleveland, riots sparked by a May Day parade claimed the life of one marcher and injured dozens.

Riots, strikes and more bombs followed. A month later, in Washington, an explosion rocked the home of U.S. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer, who had been on the May Day bomb list. Palmer and his family were inside at the time of the blast, and were unhurt.

Police speculated that the bomber had tripped on the stairs leading to the house, prematurely setting off his deadly cargo. But there was really no way to confirm this, since all that was left was a hat, some bits of flesh, and a pair of mangled legs.

Similar devices, aimed at judges and politicians who were hard on Reds or organized labor, exploded in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Boston, without casualties.

One June 2, in New York, a bomb detonated at the home of Judge Charles Cooper Nott Jr., at E. 61st St., killing two people, a night watchman and a woman passerby. The explosion was unbelievably powerful. Even veterans of World War I

in the nearby soldier's club said it was the loudest blast they had ever heard.

After the June round of attacks, Palmer ordered more raids, arrests and deportations of such loud-mouthed agitators as Emma Goldman, along with hundreds of dimmer Red lights. The task of compiling the list of dangerous characters went to a young attorney named J. Edgar Hoover.

In his zeal, Palmer trampled the civil liberties of ordinary citizens who just happened to express an unpatriotic thought, or whose ethnicity fell into a group deemed undesirable.

Despite the crackdown, months passed with no clues to the identity of the springtime bombers. The summer of 1920 was marked by squabbles, strikes and riots, but the worst was to come.

On the morning of Sept. 16, 1920, someone parked a horse-drawn wagon on Wall St., in front of the offices of J.P. Morgan & Co., and about 200 feet from the Stock Exchange.

It exploded at noon, killing 30 people, injuring hundreds, wrecking offices and shattering windows for blocks. In "Only Yesterday," historian Frederick Lewis Allen noted that, in the panic after the explosion, William Remick, president of the Stock exchange, calmly said, "I guess it's about time to ring the gong," and he did so, ending trading for the day.

Investigators examined every shard, splinter and fragment found in the street, and interviewed hundreds of witnesses, but came up with nothing. The most concrete clue came from the carcass of the poor horse, whose shoe was traced to a local blacksmith, but he could not recall the name of the owner.

One theory of the motive was that it was a protest against the murder conviction of Massachusetts anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. But, despite dragnets and fevered investigations, no one ever found the Wall Street bomber.

Oddly, after this most deadly explosion, the Red terror began to cool, and, in time, the country moved on. Capitalism hummed along. The morning after the bombing, the stock exchange opened as usual, and prices rose steadily through the trading day.

Previous Page 12 Next Page Riots, strikes and more bombs followed. A month later, in Washington, an explosion rocked the home of U.S. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer, who had been on the May Day bomb list. Palmer and his family were inside at the time of the blast, and were unharmed.

Police speculated that the bomber had tripped on the stairs leading to the house, prematurely setting off his deadly cargo. But there was really no way to confirm this, since all that was left was a hat, some bits of flesh, and a pair of mangled legs.

Similar devices, aimed at judges and politicians who were hard on Reds or organized labor, exploded in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Boston, without casualties.

One June 2, in New York, a bomb detonated at the home of Judge Charles Cooper Nott Jr., at E. 61st St., killing two people, a night watchman and a woman

passerby. The explosion was unbelievably powerful. Even veterans of World War I in the nearby soldier's club said it was the loudest blast they had ever heard.

After the June round of attacks, Palmer ordered more raids, arrests and deportations of such loud-mouthed agitators as Emma Goldman, along with hundreds of dimmer Red lights. The task of compiling the list of dangerous characters went to a young attorney named J. Edgar Hoover.

In his zeal, Palmer trampled the civil liberties of ordinary citizens who just happened to express an unpatriotic thought, or whose ethnicity fell into a group deemed undesirable.

Despite the crackdown, months passed with no clues to the identity of the springtime bombers. The summer of 1920 was marked by squabbles, strikes and riots, but the worst was to come.

On the morning of Sept. 16, 1920, someone parked a horse-drawn wagon on Wall St., in front of the offices of J.P. Morgan & Co., and about 200 feet from the Stock Exchange.

It exploded at noon, killing 30 people, injuring hundreds, wrecking offices and shattering windows for blocks. In "Only Yesterday," historian Frederick Lewis Allen noted that, in the panic after the explosion, William Remick, president of the Stock exchange, calmly said, "I guess it's about time to ring the gong," and he did so, ending trading for the day.

Investigators examined every shard, splinter and fragment found in the street, and interviewed hundreds of witnesses, but came up with nothing. The most concrete clue came from the carcass of the poor horse, whose shoe was traced to a local blacksmith, but he could not recall the name of the owner.

One theory of the motive was that it was a protest against the murder conviction of Massachusetts anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. But, despite dragnets and fevered investigations, no one ever found the Wall Street bomber.

Oddly, after this most deadly explosion, the Red terror began to cool, and, in time, the country moved on. Capitalism hummed along. The morning after the bombing, the stock exchange opened as usual, and prices rose steadily through the trading day.

## Oregon Mailman Suspended For Defecating In Yard

Portland, OR--An Oregon mailman has been suspended for making an unwanted delivery.

The postman was captured on camera by a Portland homeowner as he defecated in a yard near some bushes Wednesday while on his postal route, KGW-TV reported.

Don Derfler saw the shocking act through his living room window.

"He started pulling his pants down and started defecating, and at that point I grabbed my camera and started to take pictures," Derfler told the local news

station.

He was baffled by the incident.

"This is how they respect our property?" he said. "It's just not right, and it's also a biohazard."

U.S. Postal Service officials apologized to the public, and suspended the mailman without pay pending an investigation.

## Other News Stories We Couldn't Fit In

The following is a partial list of other news stories that are posted on our website but that we didn't have room to fit into this newsletter. To view these stories and others you can use this [link to the Recent News page](#) of our website ([www.mailroomsafety.us](http://www.mailroomsafety.us)).

- Suspicious Package Containing 'White Powdery Substance' Brought To Massachusetts Police Station Turns Out To Be Herbs And Spices
- WMD Experts Agree That Bioterror Is Leading Threat To The U.S.
- White Powder Letters Spook Washington As Anthrax Attack Recalled
- Cash4Gold Customers Told Gold 'Lost In Mail'
- Hoboken Police Respond To Beeping Sound Coming From Mailbox
- Canada Post Building Evacuated After Workers Complain of Sickness
- White Powdery Substance On Envelope Causes Alarm For New Jersey State Office Workers
- Canada Post Worker Gets Absolute Discharge For Mail Theft
- Georgia Police Investigate High School Death Threat Letter
- Letter Causing Lockdown at Missouri Courthouse Was Simply A Plea To Judge
- Tennessee Mail Carrier Gets Probation For Stealing Prescription Drugs
- Police Say Fifth Device Sent to Neil Lennon Could Cause Real Harm
- FBI Discounted Contaminant Clue in Anthrax Case
- Bomb Squad Called To Congressman Gosar's Office In Flagstaff
- FBI Investigated Princess Diana 'Mail Bomb Threat'
- Following Letter Bombs, Indonesia On 'Highest Alert' Through Easter

### Mail Security Training and Certification

*We'd be pleased to schedule On-site training for your group or you can make Mail Security E!Training available to them so that they can receive training and certification at their convenience--it's available 24/7, on demand, and is accessed through any internet connection.*



Mail Security E!Training makes it possible for personnel to train at their convenience. No travel to pay for. No work disruptions. No hassles

trying to coordinate training schedules.

So far this year more than 3,500 participants from more than 400 Gov't Facilities, Companies, Universities, Security Agencies, and Service Providers Have Turned to Mail Security E!Training. Their people received the training and were awarded their certifications and the facilities have the documentation of their diligence.

Money invested in effective training is an investment with high yields and the training certification is critical to federal regulatory compliance.

We'd be pleased to provide more information for E!Training or for On-site training .

You can contact us at [training@mailroomsafety.us](mailto:training@mailroomsafety.us) or [use this link to our website](#).

Thank you for your interest.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [mlane2250@aol.com](mailto:mlane2250@aol.com) by [service@mailroomsafety.us](mailto:service@mailroomsafety.us) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Mailroom Safety | P.O. Box 20263 | Baltimore | MD | 21248-0263