

Enterprise Mail Security

Critical Risks + Practical Solutions



CPE Seminar, February 2021

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Cody Martin
Director of Mail Security

**Former U.S. Postal Inspector,
Dangerous Mail Unit**



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**MIT Mechanical Engineering
Dept. & RF Technology Spin-Out**

Leading Mail Security Provider

- Cambridge, MA
- Mail threat detection
- Real-time analysis & support

The New Standard in Mail Security

Supporting

- Fortune 500 Corporations
- Government (defense, customs/border, police, etc)
- Heads of State
- High-profile individuals



US Department of Homeland Security
Qualified Anti-Terror Technology (QATT)

- **Mail-Borne Threats** - Prevalence and costs
- **Risk Assessment** - Evaluating organization risk
- **Prevention** - Newest technology for screening



Five Pillars of Mail Security



People



Procedures



Training



Technology



Emergency Response



Mail-Borne Threats

Types of Threats and Extent of the Problem

USPIS 2019 Annual Report

- Dangerous Mail Investigations (DMI) Unit
- 400 specially-trained inspectors
- 3,289 suspicious incidents (powders, liquids)
- 125,000 suspicious mail items subject to forensics exam

US Bomb Data Center

- 7,404 suspicious packages in 2018
- 2,261 incidents involving letters or parcels



<https://www.uspis.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FY-2019-annual-report-508-web.pdf>

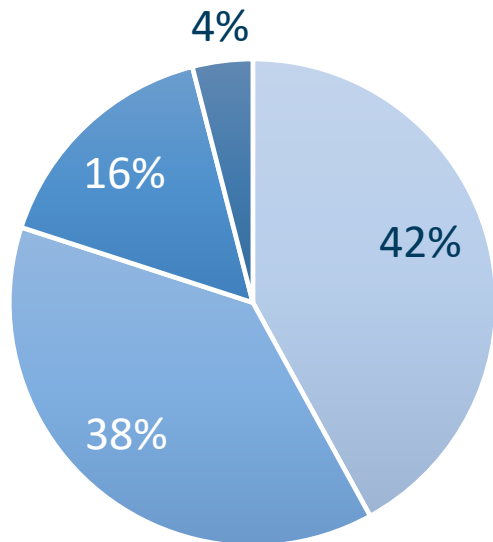


Most Mail Threats

1. Small to fit anonymous drop box
2. Lack chain of custody
3. Exhibit unusual characteristics

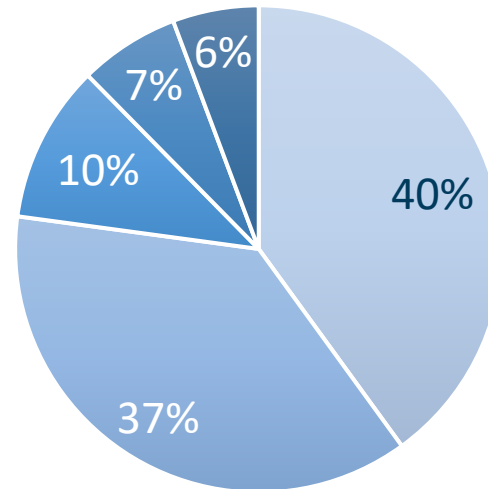
95% of Mail Threats in Small Packages

Threat Types



- 42% ■ Drugs
- 38% ■ White Powder
- 16% ■ Other
- 4% ■ Other Powders

Targets



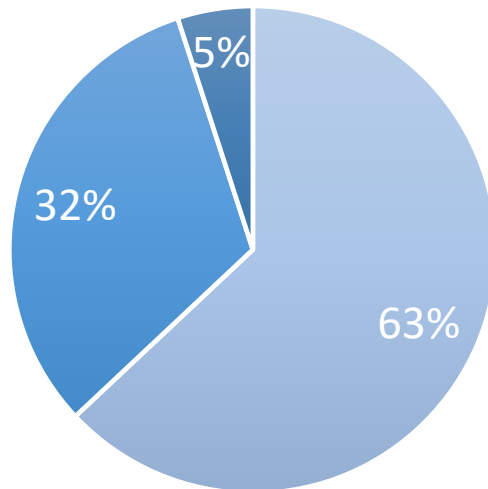
- 42% ■ Government
- 39% ■ Private
- 11% ■ Post Office
- 7% ■ Corrections
- 6% ■ Courts

95%
Small Packages

32% of known threats arrived in a letter envelope, and 63% via parcel — which could be mailed via USPS “blue box.”

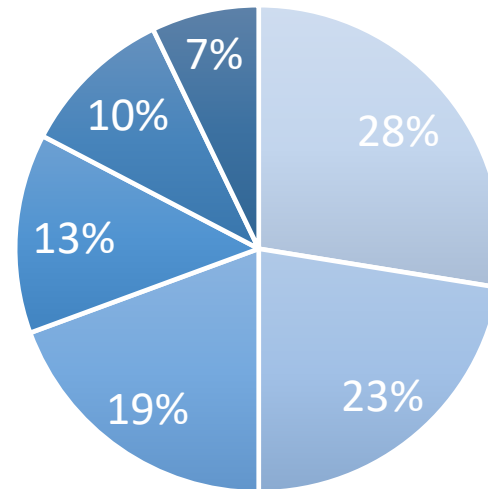
10 Dangerous Mail Incidents Every Day

Container



- 63% ■ Parcels
- 32% ■ Letters
- 5% ■ Unreported

Response



- 27% ■ Hazmat
- 22% ■ EOD/Bomb Squad
- 19% ■ Sheriff
- 13% ■ FBI
- 10% ■ Local police
- 7% ■ USPS

3,289

USPIS Incident Responses in 2019

USPIS responds to 10 dangerous mail incidents every day, on average.

1 in 3

Fortune 500 Companies
receive at least one mail threat per
year*.



ANNUAL REPORT 2019 | 27

<https://www.uspis.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FY-2019-annual-report-508-web.pdf>

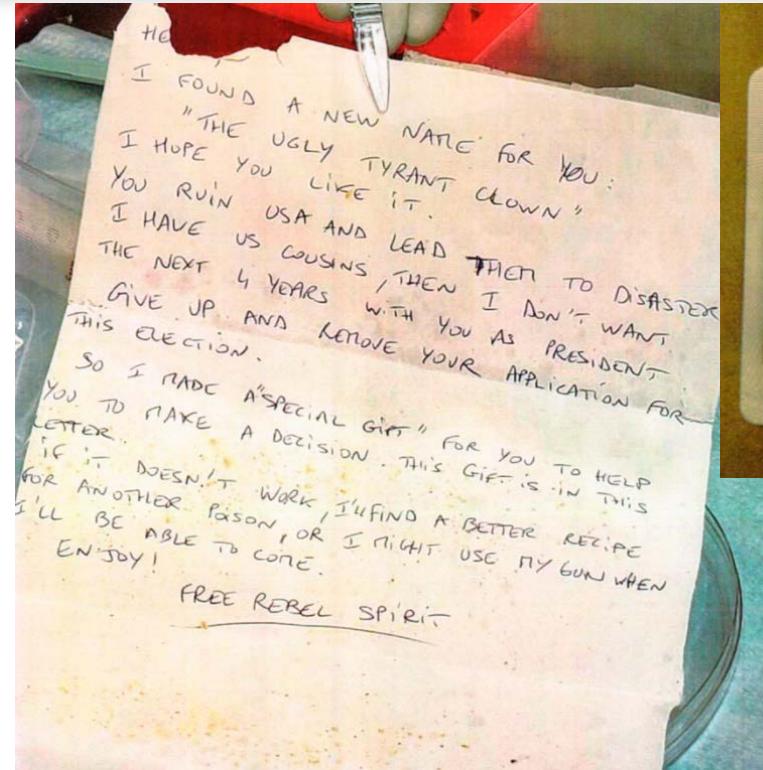
2020 Shutdown Example

- ~200 Employees Work in HQ
- Approximately 20 on Site
- News outlets tied it to “Firings”
- Recent “problems” like Jared Fogel
- News agencies blamed Corporate



Washington DC, Sep 2020

- White House – 1 letter
- Texas – 6 Letters
 - Detention Centers
 - Law Enforcement HQs
- Federal Charges
 - Making Interstate Threats
 - Violating Prohibitions on Biological Weapons



Case Study – Election Mail-in Ballots

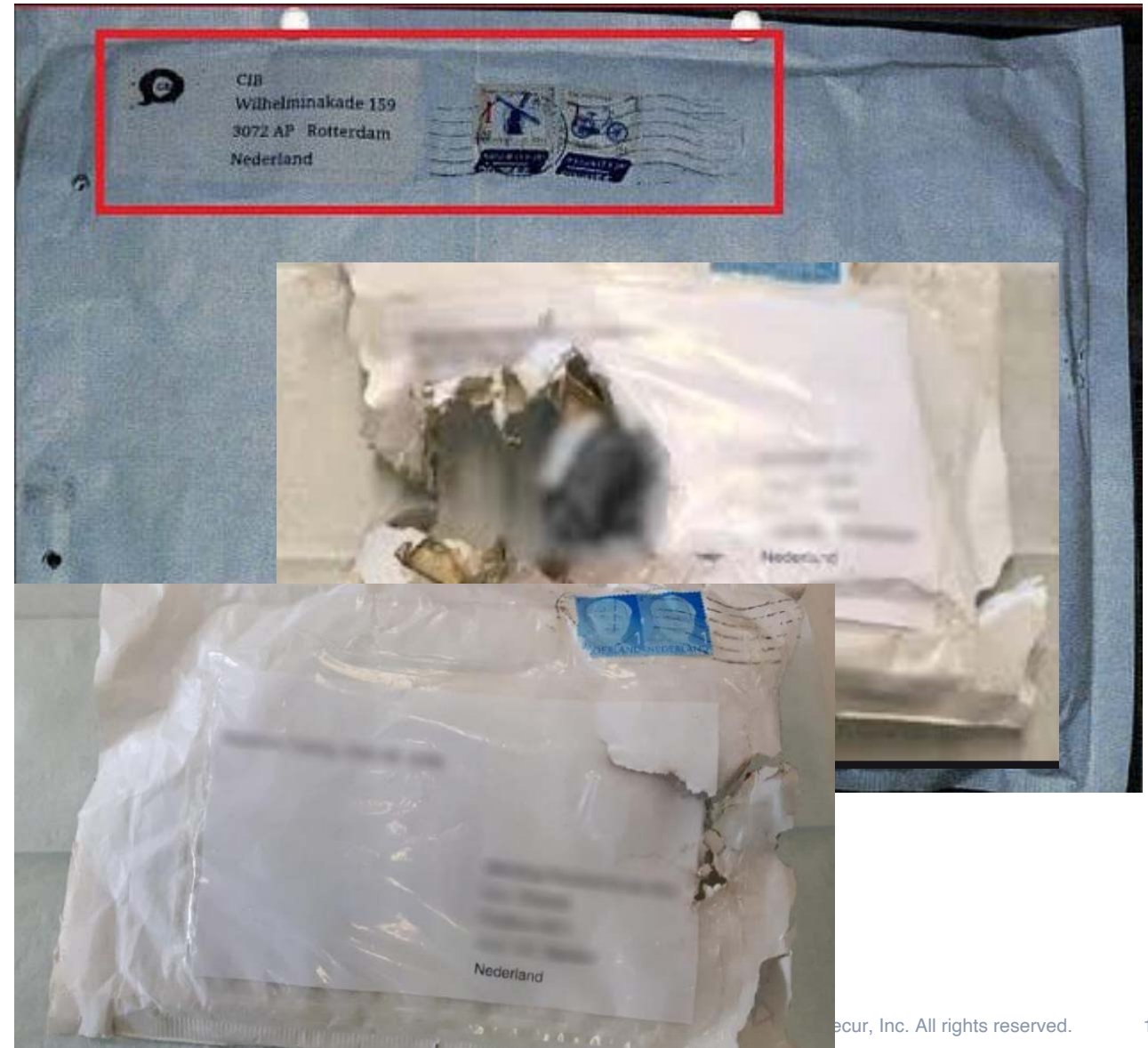
Multiple Cities

- Las Vegas, NV – Board of Elections
 - White Powder
- Baltimore, MD – NAACP
 - White powder & racist note
- Erie County, NY – Board of Elections
 - White Powder
- Grand Island, NE – Election Commission
 - 24" x 3" tube, blue liquid & electric pump
 - “F___ off, NOW” in reference to the “New World Order” written on a voter registration form.



Netherlands Jan-Feb 2020

- 20+ parcels
- Multiple cities
- Extortion/bitcoin
- Fraudulent return address
- Hissing + “bang”



Case Study – “Brushing” (Seeds, etc)

All 50 States

- Fake ecommerce reviews
- Fake review, real name
- Federal Trade Commission
- Thousands of packages

Hundreds of Calls

- Follows all “Suspect Markings”
- Legitimate concerns
- Drained emergency services



Chain of Custody More Frequently Broken

Competition at the Last Mile



Image: United States Postal Service



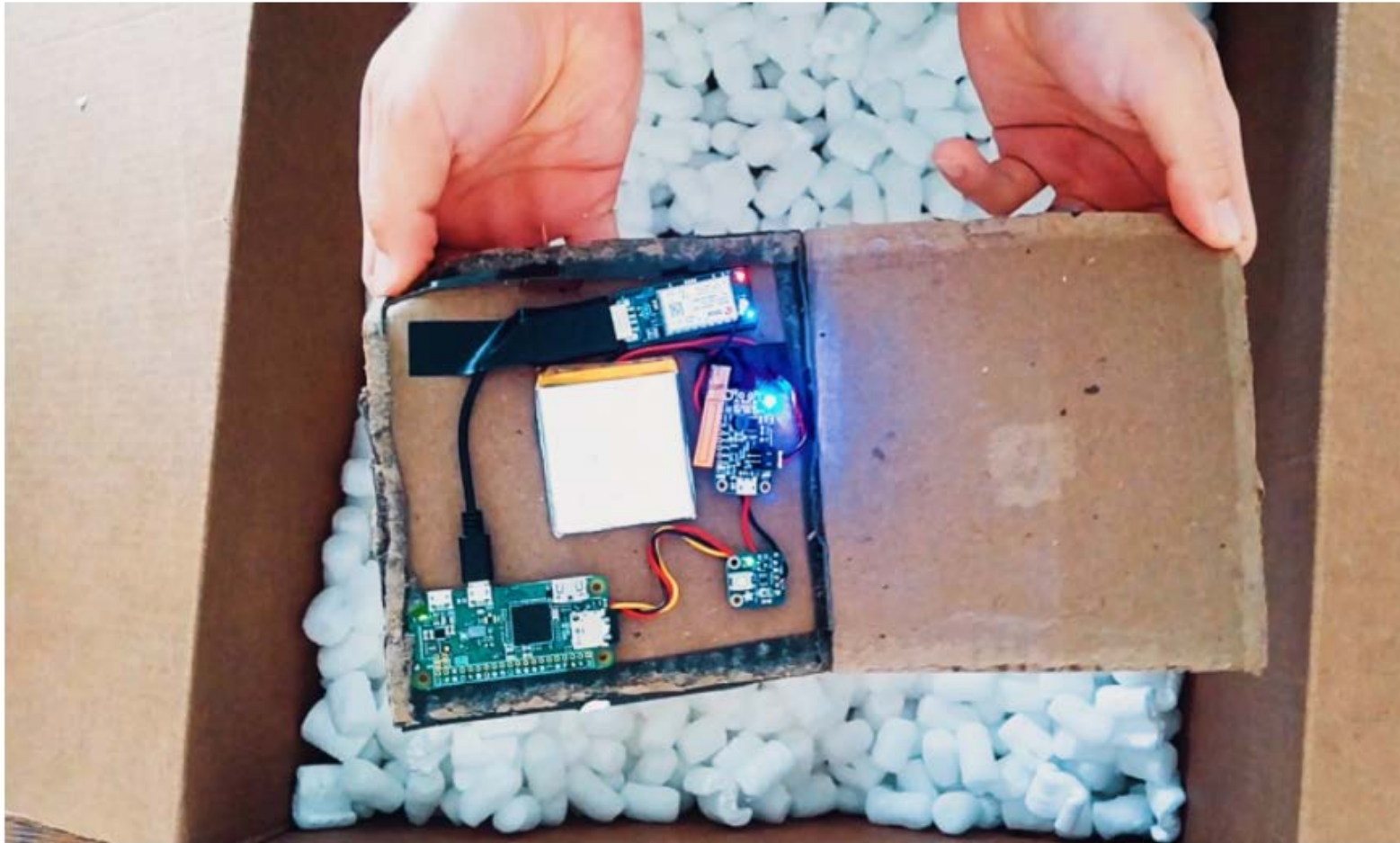
<https://truenorthcompanies.com/blog/transportation/solving-for-risk-in-the-last-mile-sector.aspx>

Multi-Mode Last Mile Delivery

Potential for risk and complacency

- Crowdsourced providers
- Local carrier services
- Automated technologies

IBM Research Black Hat USA 2019



A warshipping device (Image: IBM/supplied)

Cyber Attack Vector

- WIFI + 3G hobby components for less than \$100
- Shipped in the mail or concealed within items
- Provides physical network access point

Mitigation

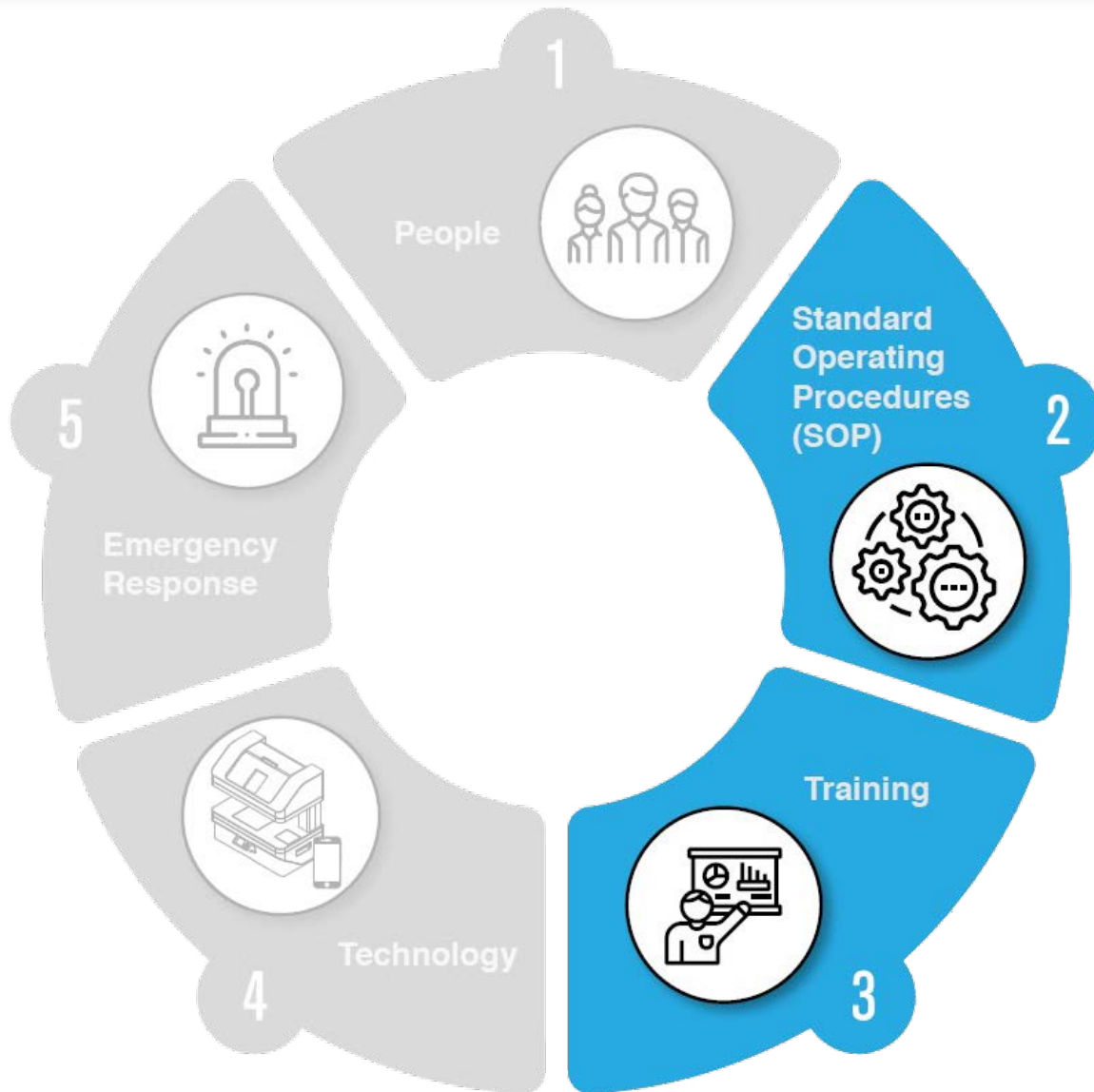
1. Process mail quickly
2. Scan for anomalies
3. Discard packing

Types of Threats

- False Positive
- Hoax
- Chemical
 - Intentional
 - Accidental
- Hazardous Device
- Biological
 - Anthrax
 - Ricin

Probability

Severity



Mail Security Program

Key Concepts and Implementation

Five Pillars of Mail Security



Internal Teams

- Executive Support
- Global Security
- Facilities Management
 - Outsourced Service Providers
- Mail Handlers

External Teams

- Subject Matter Experts
- On-Demand Support
- Incident Response



Standard Processes – Mail Security Pillar

Global Mailroom Security Policy Statement

Global Mailroom Mail Screening Process

SOP-001: Mail Security Screening

SOP-002: Suspicious Item Screening

SOP-003: Emergency Response

Appendix: Site-Specific Information

Site #1 Site #2 Site #... Site #... Site #...

Site-Specific Resources:

- Process Materials: Poster 84, RS Process Flow
- Trainings: LMS, On-Site Training, Quarterly Webinar
- Equipment: Screening Mat, MailSecur Scanner
- Support: EODSecur 24/7/365 Support

Broad Corporate Guidelines to Define Global Mail Screening Standards

Site-Specific Information



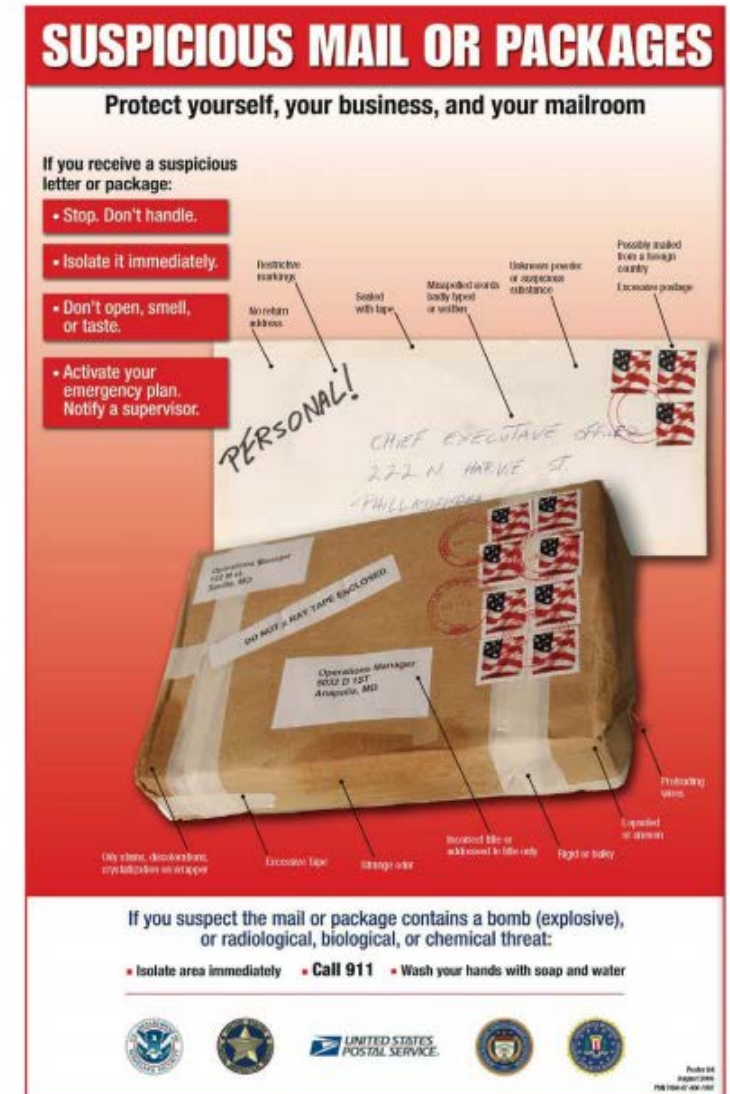
Flexibility to Adapt as COVID Situation Evolves

Training – Internalize SOPs

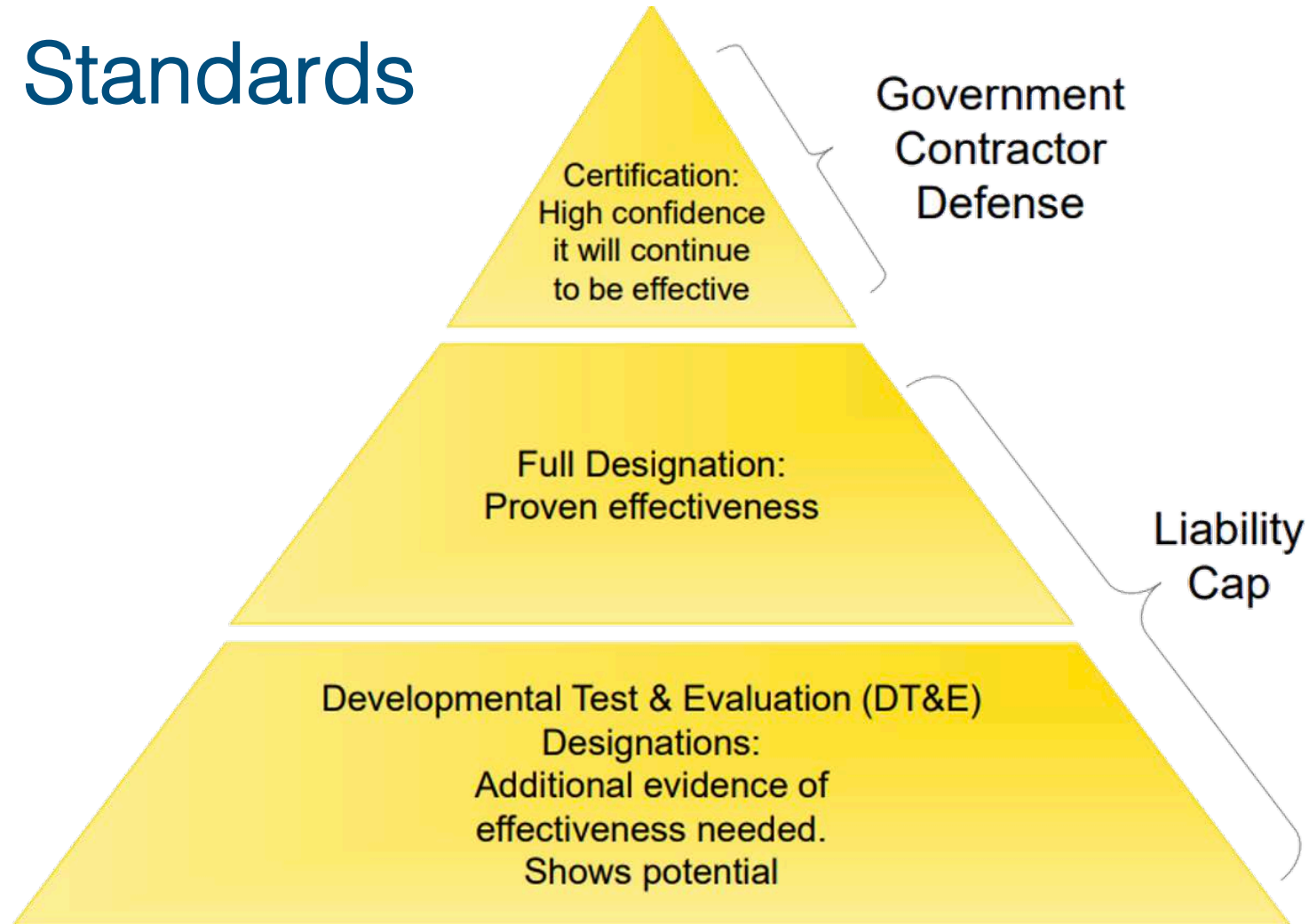
- Spans all layers of the organization
- Objective is to educate
- Incorporate training aids into everyday routines
- Continually update

Certification

- Confirm required level of understanding
- Require periodic recertification for key employees



Validated Standards



USPIS Response

- 4 hours
- Unmarked SUV
- Dangerous Mail Specialist
- Screen up through identification
- Resolve or escalate



Local (911) Response

- Faster response times
- Numerous personnel
- Evacuations
- **Very similar mail screening equipment**

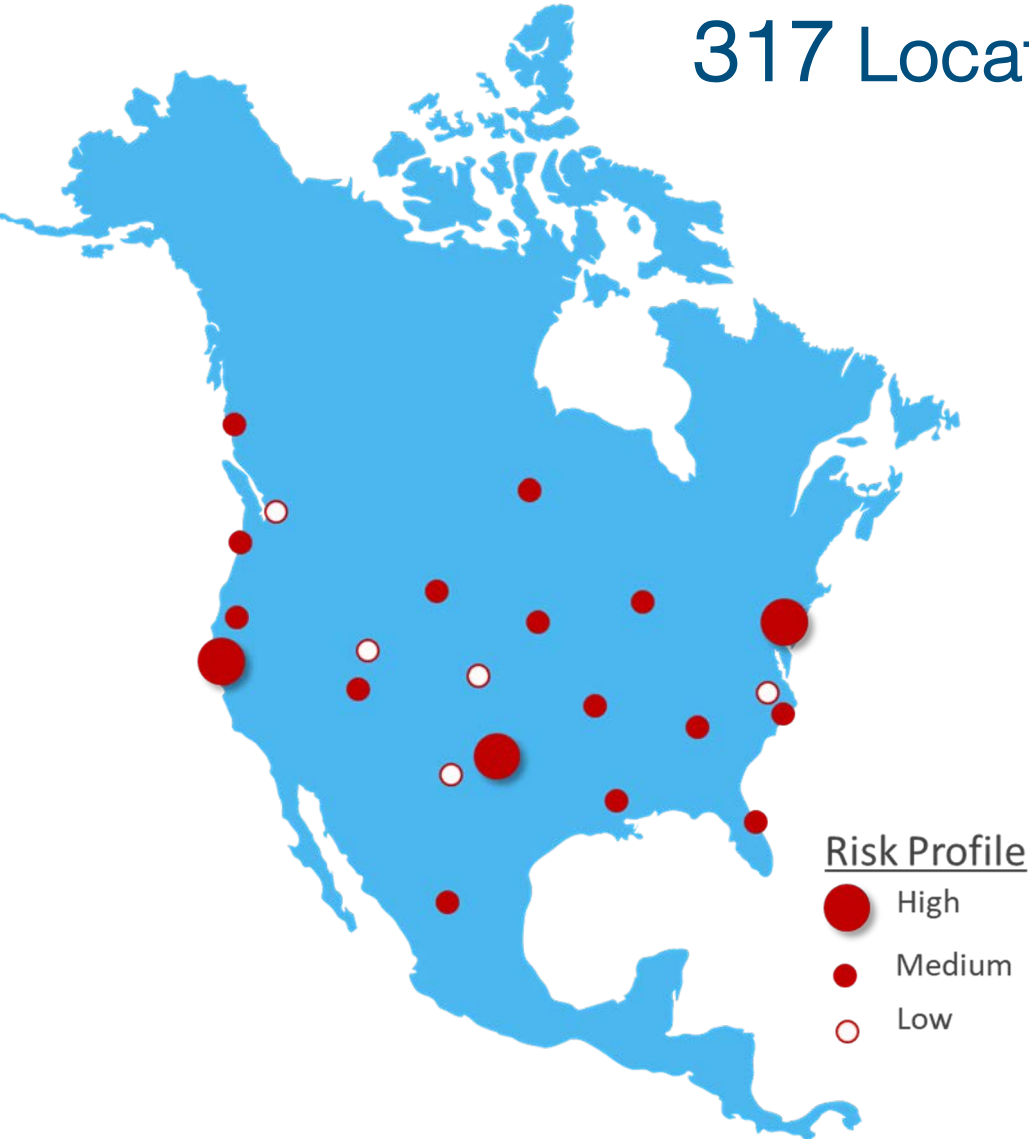




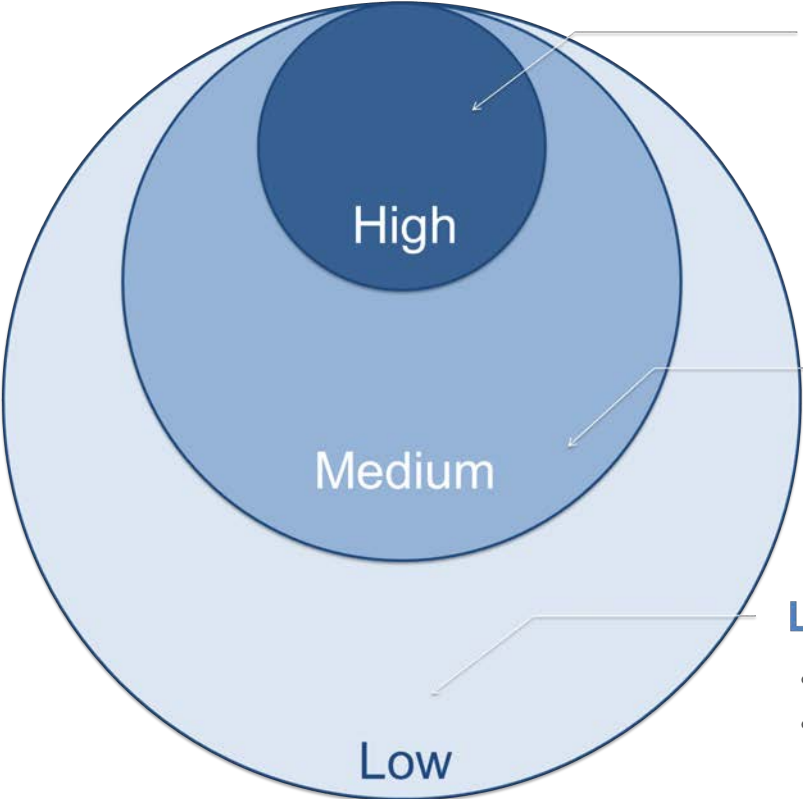
Enterprise Risk Assessment

How to Evaluate Your Risk

317 Locations for the Average Fortune 500 Company



Site Risk Profile Varies



High Risk

- Corporate HQ
- Critical Infrastructure
 - Data Centers
 - Manufacturing Plants
 - Operations Center
 - Executive Protection
- Public Figures

Medium Risk

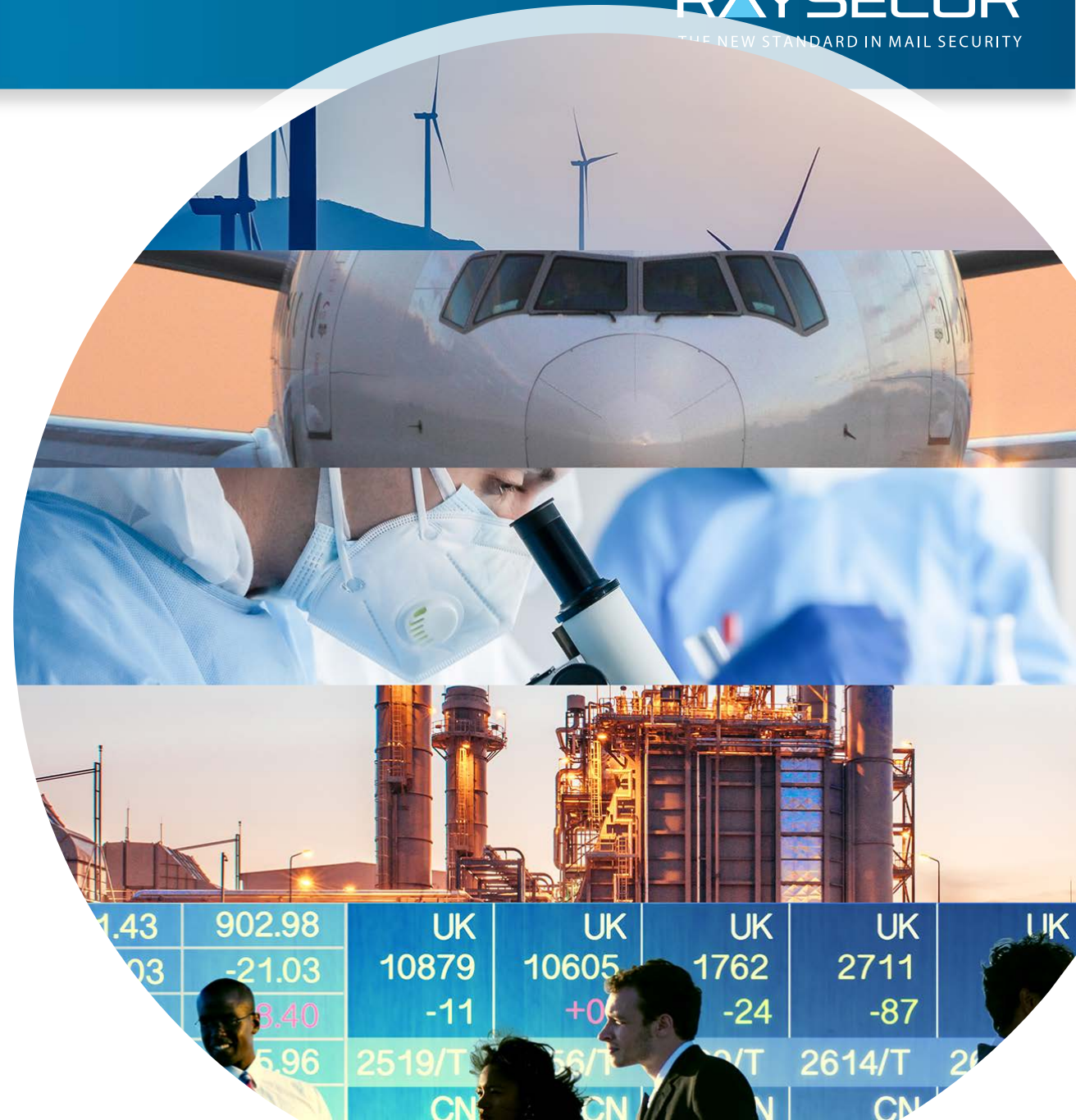
- Satellite Offices
- Support Facilities

Low Risk

- Remote sites,
- Low profile sites

US DHS High Risk Areas

- Banking
- Energy / Power
- Defense
- Legal
- Chemical / Pharmaceutical
- Nuclear Facilities
- Transportation
- Health & Medical
- Telecommunications
- Construction
- Bio-Medical Research
- “Military Industrial Complex”



Risk Assessment Considerations

- Symbolism
- Location
- Population



Risk Assessment “Intangibles”

- Previous attacks
- Negative press
- Demonstrations, boycotts, labor disputes
- Disgruntled employees
- Facility layout
- Facility tenants
- Controlled vs. public access
- Loading dock
- Visibility (signage, lighting, advertising)
- Visitors



Best Practices for Mail Screening and Handling Processes: A Guide for the Public and Private Sectors

September 27, 2012

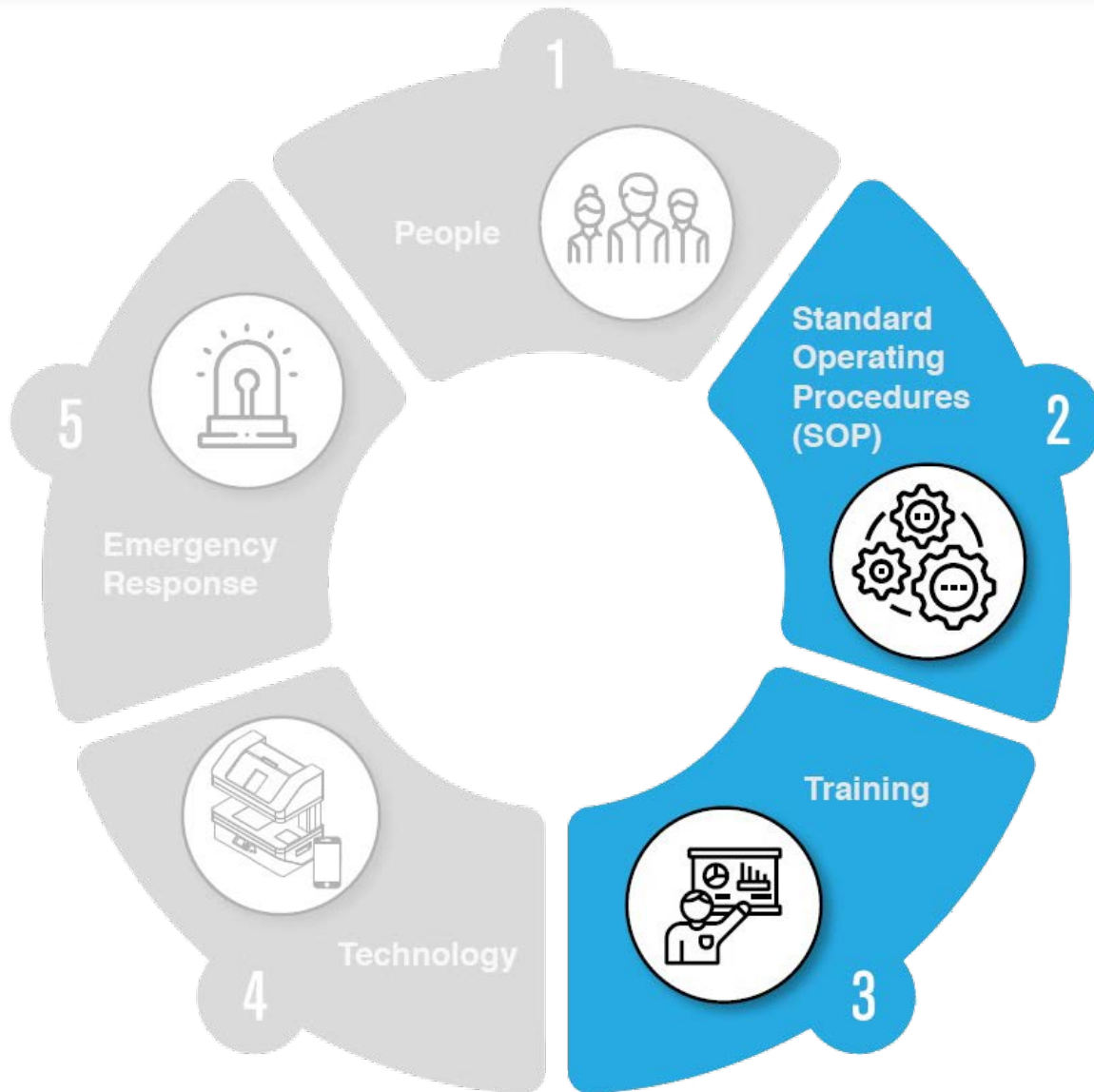
1st Edition



Homeland
Security



Interagency
Security
Committee



Enterprise-Level SOPs

How to Evaluate Your Risk

Standard Operating Procedures

- Specify company-wide
- Global, not site-specific
- Individual sites added case-by-case
- All sites use global standards
- Site-specific SOPs based on risk profile



Global Mail Screening Standards

Global Mailroom Security Policy Statement

Global Mailroom Mail Screening Process

SOP-001: Mail Security Screening

SOP-001A: Executive Protection Screening
Standard Operating Procedure

SOP-002: Suspicious Item Screening

SOP-003: Emergency Response

Site-specific Appendix

Appendix: Site-Specific Information

Site 1

Site 2

Site 3

Site 4

Site 5

Site 6

Site-Specific Resources:

- Process Materials: Poster 84, RS Process Flow
- Trainings: LMS, On-Site Training, Quarterly Webinar
- Equipment: Screening Mat, MailSecur Scanner
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DHS Mail Center Classification & Rating

MAIL SCREENING REQUIREMENTS RATING

| Facility Risk Rating | Mail Center Class A (Small) | Mail Center Class B (Medium) | Mail Center Class C (Large) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1A | 1B | |
| 2 | 2A | 2B | |
| 3 | 3A | 3B | 3C |

MAIL CENTER CLASSIFICATION

| | Daily Mail Volume | Staff | Number of Satellites |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Class A – Small | < 1000 | < 10 | N/A |
| Class B – Medium | 1000 -9,999 | 10 - 49 | < 3 |
| Class C – Large | 10,000+ | 50+ | 3 or more |

MAIL SCREENING BEST PRACTICES

| FACILITY TYPE | VISUAL SCREENING | DANGEROUS CONTRABAND | HOAX SCREENING | EXPLOSIVE SCREENING | CHEMICAL SCREENING | BIOLOGICAL SCREENING | RAD/NUKE SCREENING | CONTENT SCREENING |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1A | X | X | X | | | | | |
| 1B | X | X | X | | | | | |
| 2A | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| 2B | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| 3A | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 3B | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 3C | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

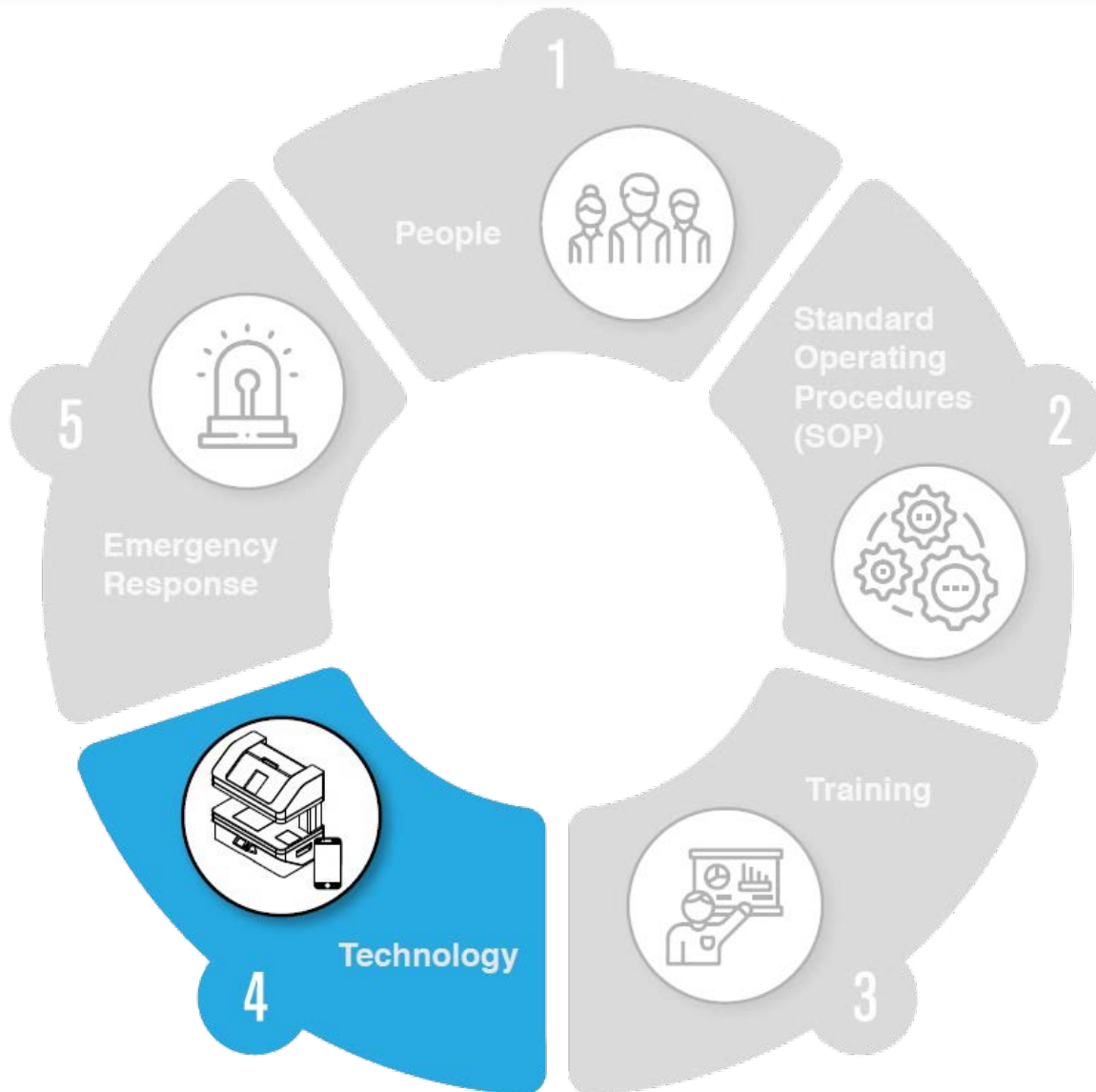
- Mail room or loading dock only
- Verify registration before accepting
 - Hold courier ID
 - Monitor critical areas
- Electronic surveillance
- Reduce accessories
- Independent HVAC zones



Mail Room Security Practices

- Away from main entrances & infrastructure
- Off-site or at perimeter
- No deliveries during peak business hours
- Screen all packages
- Separate mail room ventilation
- CBRN detection & isolation equipment
- Train on suspicious mail & deliveries
- Provide PPE





Screening Technologies

Advanced Technologies to Counter Today's Threats

Common Types of Mail Threats

Dangerous Items



Needles, razor blades, guns, knives, and lithium ion batteries are just a few of the items that could hurt recipients or mail handlers.

Explosives



In just one 10-day period in 2018, 16 pipe bombs were mailed to prominent Democratic Party politicians and President Trump.

Contraband



Many companies have found illegal drugs being sent to employees through the USPS and internal mail.

Powders



Five people were killed by letters containing anthrax in 2001; since then white powder has been commonly used as a mail-borne threat.

Liquids



Acids, tear gas, and other liquids can cause havoc and injury if released in a workplace.

Chemical



Many chemicals used in industrial applications are dangerous and readily available for purchase and shipping by bad actors.

Biological



Biological threats include microorganisms, viruses, and toxins that can harm humans.

Nuclear



If radioactive materials were to be released in a workplace, they could seriously harm people and render the facility permanently unusable.



Traditional X-Ray

***Not Visible by X-Ray in Typical Quantities Found in Most Mail Threats**

1. Detect

2. Isolate

3. Identify

Corporate

- Visual and tactile
- X-ray imaging
- mmWave imaging
- K9 teams
- Confirm & de-escalate
- Initiate response

Law Enforcement

- Spectroscopy
- Chromatography
- Wet chemistry
- Bio-assays
- Chem / bio sensors
- Explosives analyzers

Mail Screening Technology Mismatch

Table 5-1. Common Screening Technology Applications

| SUBSTANCE | VISUAL INSPECTION | AUTOMATIC SENSORS | HANDHELD SENSORS | CANINE TEAMS | X-RAY SCANNERS | AIR SAMPLING SYSTEMS | CDC LRN* Tests | AUTOMATIC BIO ID SYSTEMS |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Chemical | X | X | X | | | X | | |
| Biological | X | X | ** | | | X | X | X |
| Radiological | | X | X | | | | | |
| Nuclear | | X | X | | | | | |
| Explosives | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Dangerous Items | X | | | | X | | | |
| Contraband | X | | X | X | X | | | |
| Suspicious powders | X | | | | | | X | |
| Threatening Content | X | | | | | | | |



Best Practices for Mail Screening and Handling Processes: A Guide for the Public and Private Sectors

September 27, 2012
1st Edition



UK Mail Security Guidelines

Introduction to **PAS 97:2015**

Mail screening and security – Specification



Screening levels

A key component of PAS 97 is a series of screening levels.

Generally, the greater the commitment of resource and effort to mail screening, the greater the protection that is likely to be achieved. It is, however, important that the organization achieves an appropriate level of screening, balancing the threat it faces with the need for

operational efficiency, whilst having the flexibility to adapt screening in response to changes to the threat or the requirements of the organization's business.

It might be appropriate to apply different levels of screening to different mail streams, to reflect the different risks associated with the various streams.

People often refer to **"white powders"** in the context of postal threats. These can include hazardous chemical (including explosive or narcotic), biological or radiological materials, as well as benign materials. Such materials may not be "white" and may not be "powders"; materials may be crystalline (e.g. sugar), oily or waxy residues, or liquids, and might be present in sufficiently small quantities as to be undetectable by typical X-ray-based screening processes.

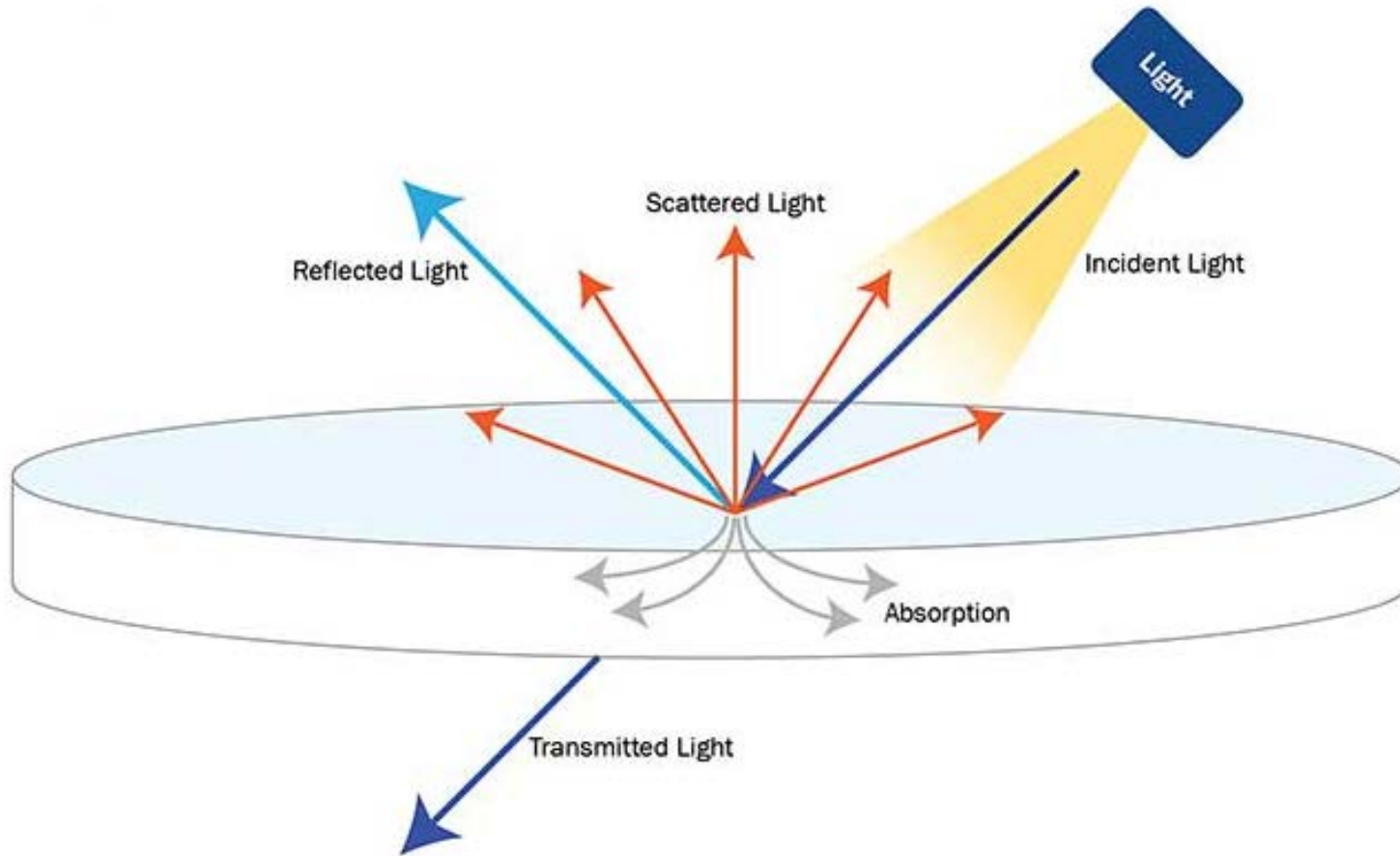
- firearms and ammunition;
- knives;
- blades and other sharp items, (e.g. syringe needles, broken glass);
- offensive material (e.g. faeces, urine);
- bulk chemicals – toxic, corrosive or otherwise harmful, including narcotics;
- bulk biological materials;
- bulk radiological (radioactive) materials.

People often refer to **"white powders"** in the context of postal threats. These can include hazardous chemical (including explosive or narcotic), biological or radiological materials, as well as benign materials. Such materials may not be "white" and may not be "powders"; materials may be crystalline (e.g. sugar), oily or waxy residues, or liquids, and might be present in sufficiently small quantities as to be undetectable by typical X-ray-based screening processes.

| Level | Screening method | Protection afforded against | | Measures common to all screening levels |
|-------|---|--|------------------|---|
| | | Discrete threat objects and bulk materials | "White powders" | |
| (0) | No screening, other than general staff awareness of postal threats | Low | Very low | The chosen screening level(s) shall be implemented in combination with physical protective measures appropriate for each activity being conducted (see Clause 6). Staff shall be suitably trained and shall be deemed competent to carry out the screening activities. Emergency procedures shall be initiated if at any point during screening an item is considered suspicious. PAS 97 provides actions that are recommended upon discovery of any suspicious delivered item. |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External visual inspection of every item. • X-ray anything of concern, especially larger items (packages, parcels, etc.). | Moderate | Low | |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X-ray all items in bulk/large batches initially. • X-ray again individually or in smaller batches if anything anomalous is observed. | Very good to excellent | Low | |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External visual inspection of every item. • For any items identified as anomalous, open side of envelope or packaging by cutting, and without removing, examine contents visually; remove contents. | (Negligible further benefit) | Low to moderate | |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For any items identified as anomalous, open side of envelope or packaging by cutting, and without removing, examine contents visually; remove contents. • For any items identified as anomalous, open side of envelope or packaging by cutting, and without removing, examine contents visually; remove contents. | (Negligible further benefit) | Moderate to good | |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 followed by: • External visual inspection of every item. • For each item, open side of envelope or packaging by cutting, and without removing, examine contents visually; remove contents if satisfied safe to do so; inspect outer wrapping and contents for any further evidence of powders and other anomalous items or materials. | (Negligible further benefit) | Very good | |

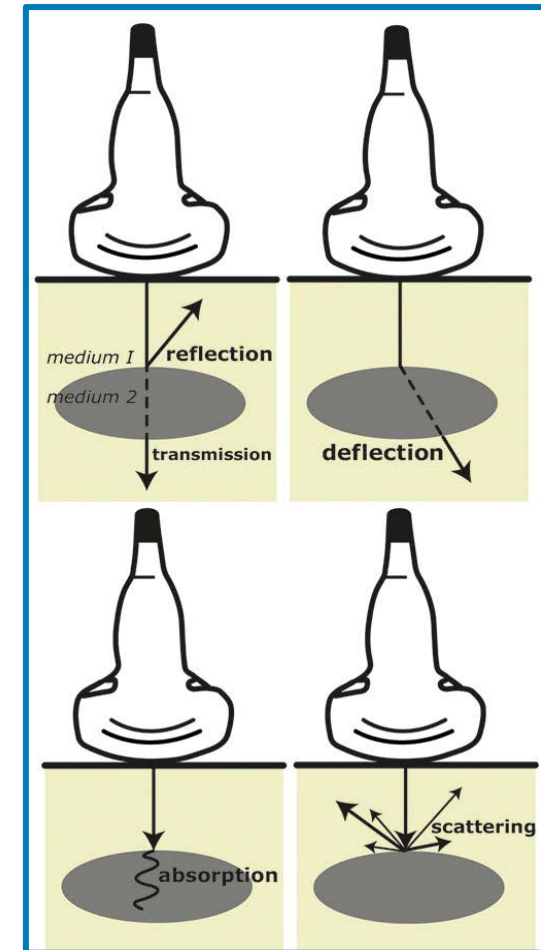
Visual Imaging

Reflection and Transmission

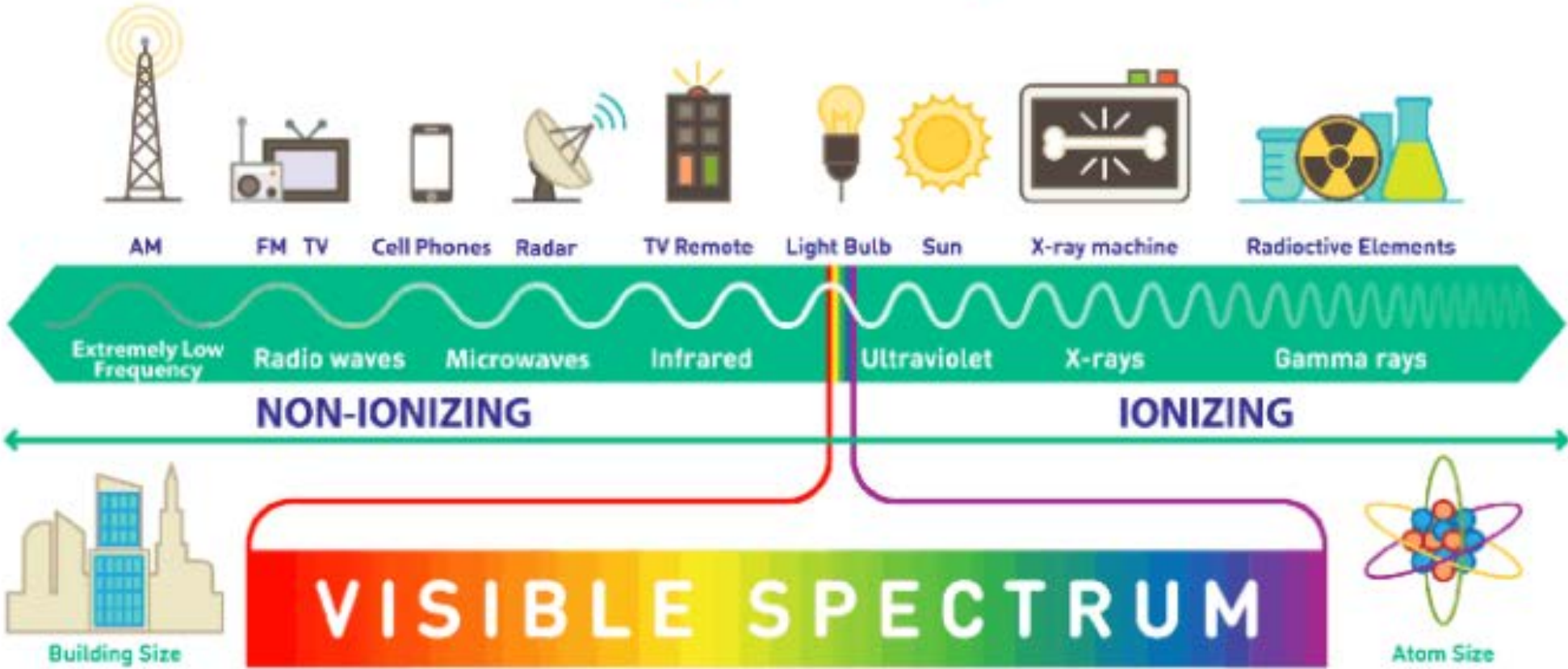


Other Applications

Example: Ultrasound



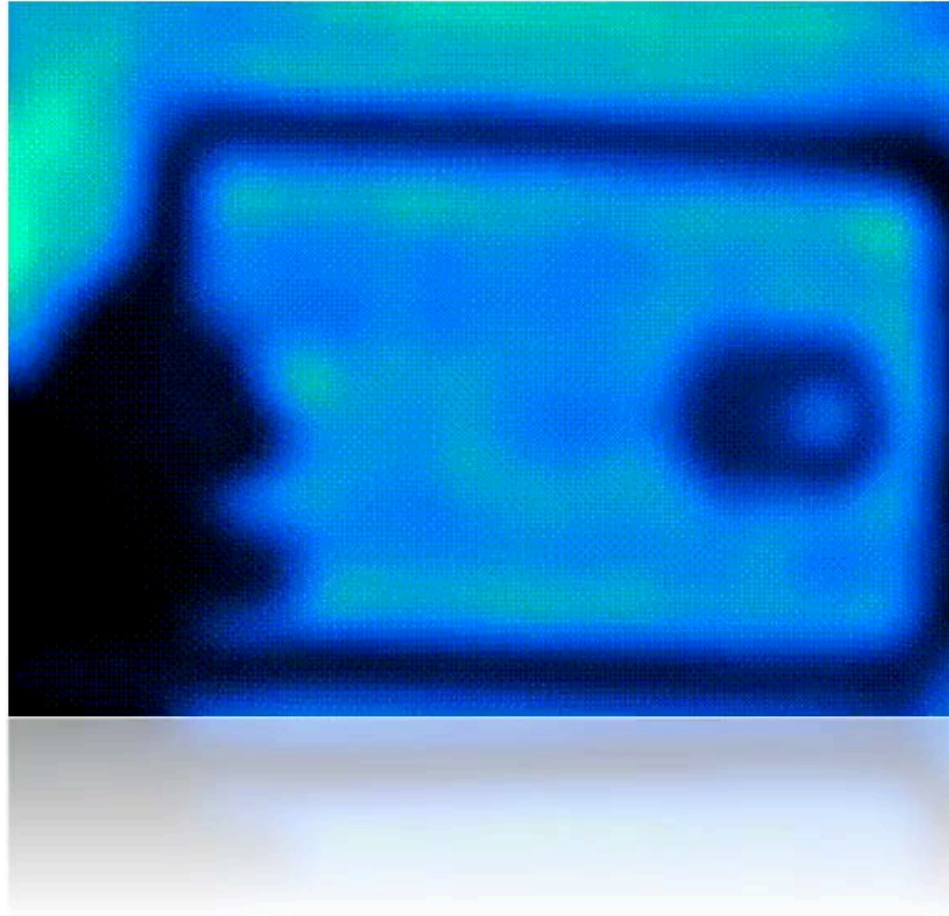
Electromagnetic Spectrum



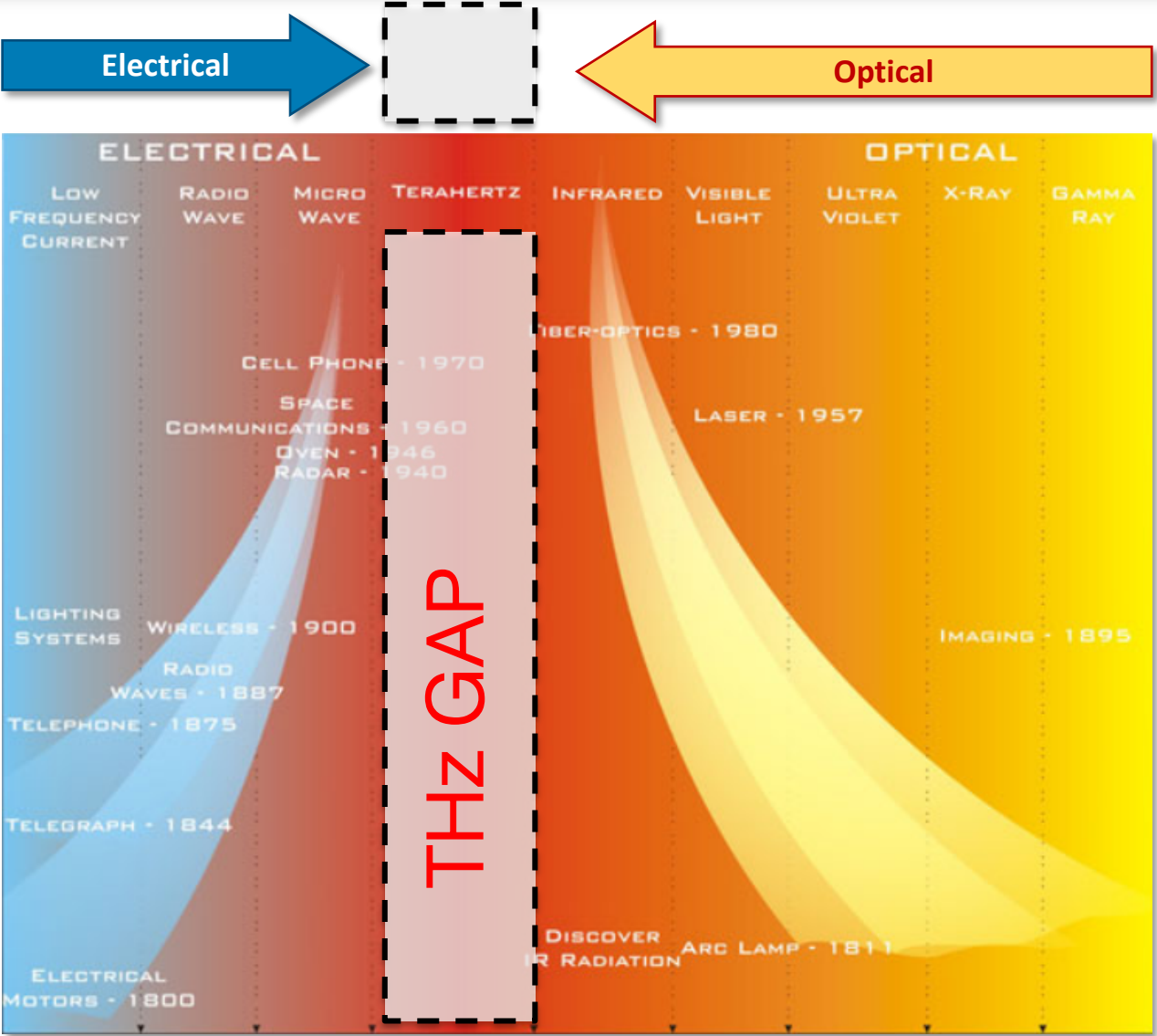
Non-Invasive Imaging Based on Wavelength



Millimeter Wave Real-time Video



mmWave (THz) Imaging Technology



Satellite Applications



Security Imaging

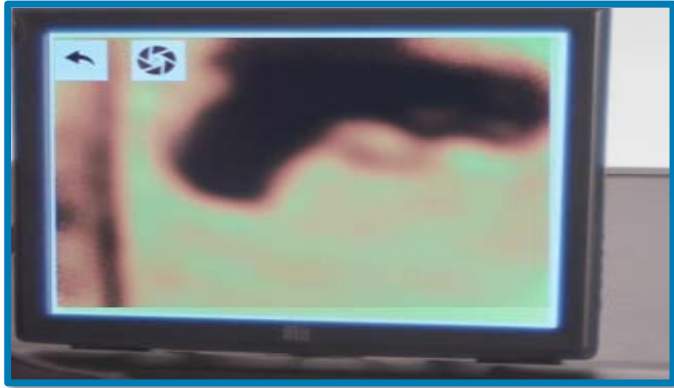


Advantages

- Safe to use
- Dynamic imaging
- Direct feedback
- Easy to deploy

Image Source: <https://teraphysics.com>

Advanced Imaging



Conventional Threats



Liquids < 100 mg



Powders < 100 mg

Human Expertise





Revenge is the motivation that most often triggers a letter or package bomb, or a bomb threat.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service Report

- Most mail threats motivated by someone within or close to the organization
- Know your people, your customers, and anticipate changes in the business climate

Overt Mail Security

- Let employees know all mail is subject to screening
- Stamp security screened mail
- Discourage insider threats and reinforce security culture

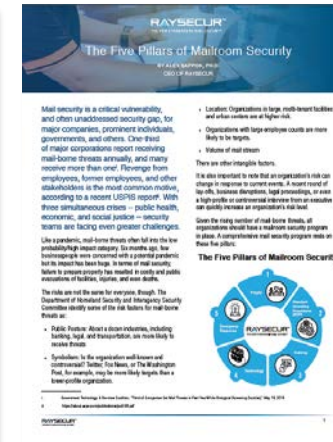


- 1 Identify the problem.
- 2 Understand highest risk or most likely threats.
- 3 Implement a holistic solution spanning people, process & tech.
- 4 Use the right tools for the task.
- 5 Adhere to validated standards.

State of Mail Security – Annual Report

- ATF & USPSIS data
- Case studies & analysis

[RaySecur.com/Report](https://www.raysecur.com/Report)



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