



# Introduction to Chemical Security



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# Sandia National Laboratories



# Sandia National Laboratories Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA



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# Nairobi, Kenya



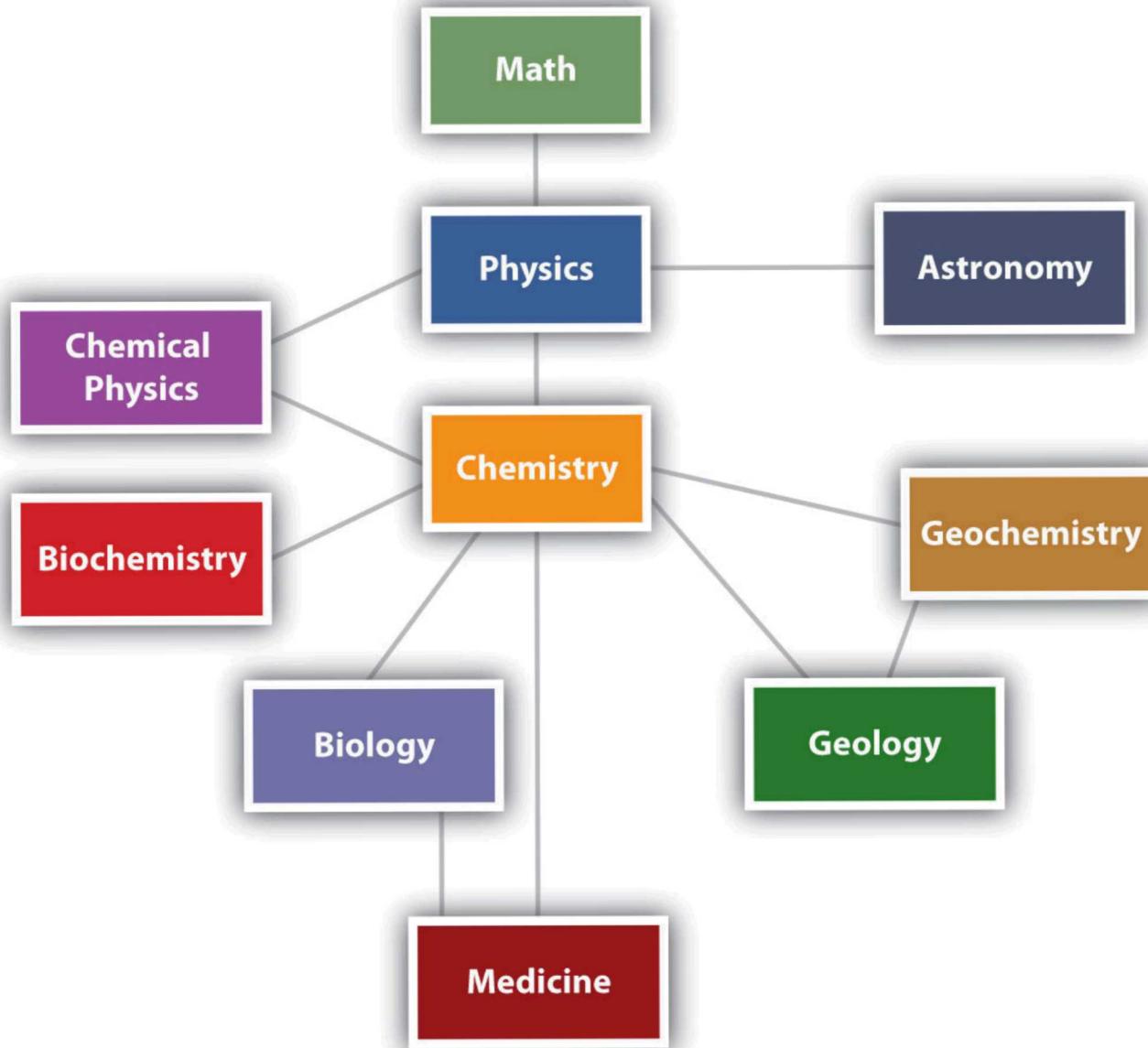
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA



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# “Better Living through Chemistry”



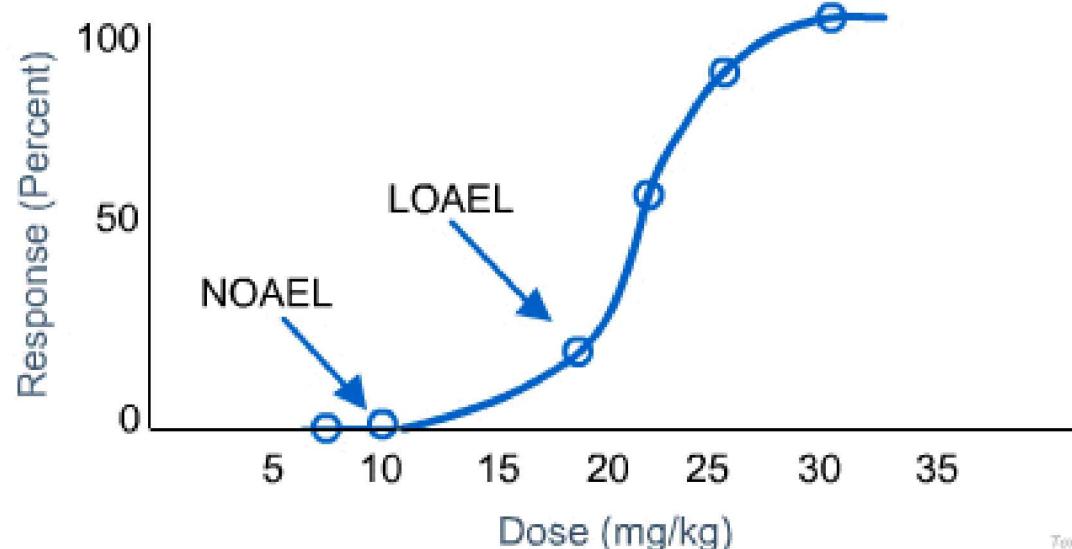


# Individual Chemicals are Dangerous

Parcelsus (circa 1500): promoted the idea of “toxicon”

*“All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates poison from a remedy.”*

Paracelsus



# But, Better Living Comes at a Cost

## Need for Chemical Safety



Pollution



Conflict



Accidents



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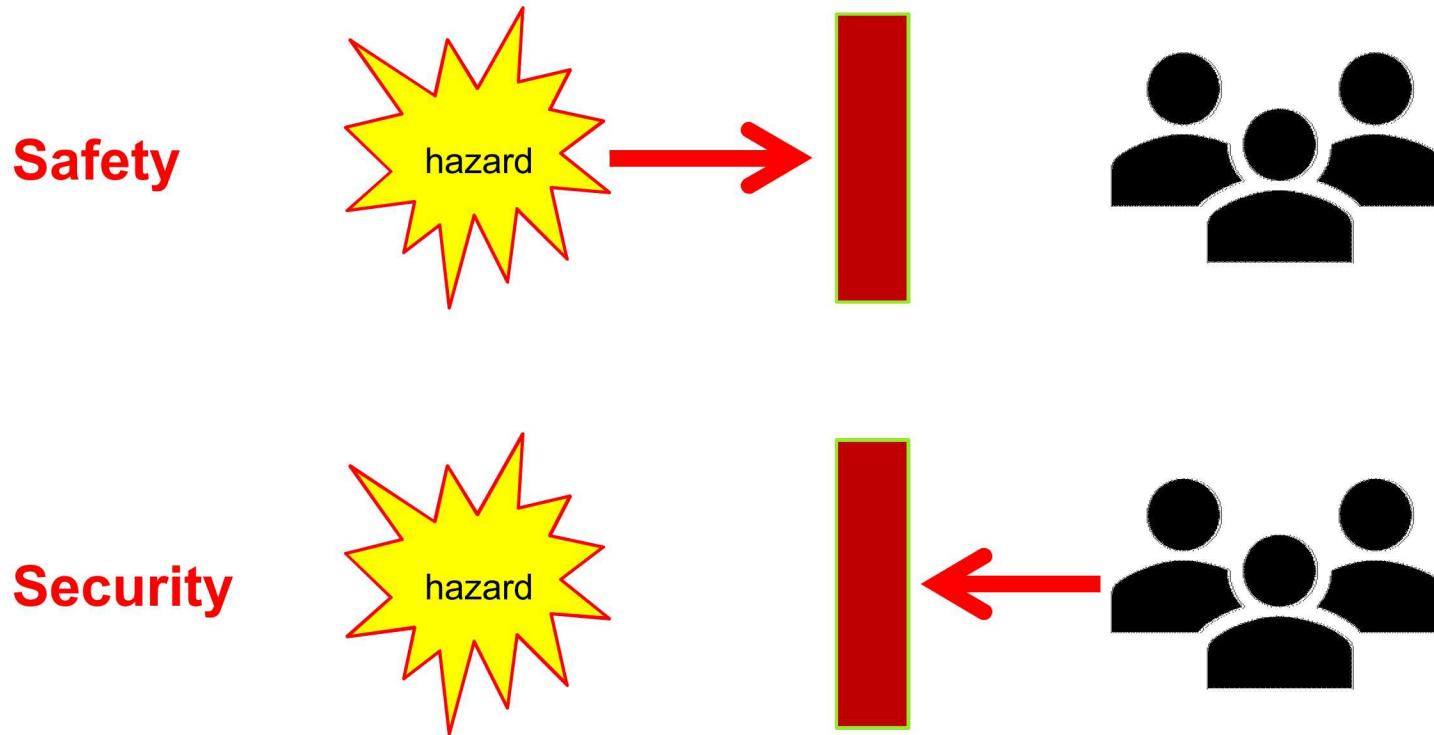
# CHEMICAL SAFETY

- **Chemical safety** is the application of the best practices for handling chemicals and chemistry processes to minimize risk, whether to a person, facility, or community.
- However, the chemicals that CHEMICAL SAFETY protects us from may be used by malicious people to attack us or our environment
- This brings in the need for CHEMICAL SECURITY



# WHAT IS CHEMICAL SECURITY?

*Protecting Chemicals from People with ill intent or limited knowledge of chemistry*

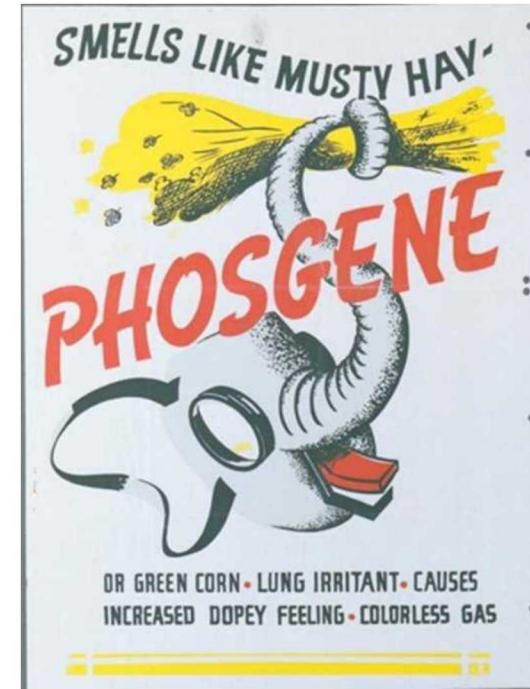


# Malicious application of Chemicals



Poisoning of Socrates 399BC

Suspected use of the Root of  
Hemlock



World War I 1815  
Second Battle of Ypres  
(1915)



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# Fritz Haber

- Best known for nitrogen fixation technology which led to Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1918)
- Haber Process

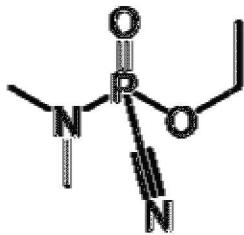


- Haber also played a role in the development of Germany's chemical weapons programs
- Contributed to the use of chlorine-gas in the Battle of Ypres
- His wife, also a chemist, committed suicide because of Fritz Haber's role in chlorine-gas campaigns

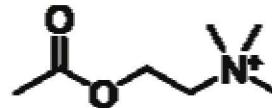


# Chemical Weapons—Designed to Kill (1937)

- Tabun (organophosphate nerve agent) developed by Gerhard Schrader by accident in 1936
- Led to development of organophosphate nerve agents for military purposes



Tabun  
(slow hydrolysis)



Acetylcholine  
(fast hydrolysis)

- Tabun mimics the behaviour of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine



# Nerve Agents Used in War

Jaguar Depot



Arlington Depot



Paladin Depot



Iraq-Iran War: Iraq used nerve agent (Tabun) in warfare 1984 against Iran



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# Chemical Weapons—Non-State Actors



Aum Shinrikyo: nerve gas attacks in Matsumoto (1994) and Tokyo Subway System (1995)



Suspected chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21, 2013 and Khan Shaykhun in 2017



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# Chemical Weapons—Still A Threat Today



Kim Jong-nam, February 13, 2017  
\*alleged assassinated with **VX**\*



Investigator Novel Baswedan (Senior  
Corruption Eradication Commission  
(KPK)) - **Acid attack (HCl)**, injuring left  
eye and face, North Jakarta in 2018



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# EXPLOSIVE CHEMICALS

Date	Location
1995	Oklahoma City Bombing
1998	US Embassy, Nairobi
2000	Paris Bombing
2015	Found in Bomb Factory in Barcelona, Spain
2016	Brussels Bombings
2017	Bombing at Manchester Arena, London

# Illicit Drug Production—Dual-Use Lab Reagents

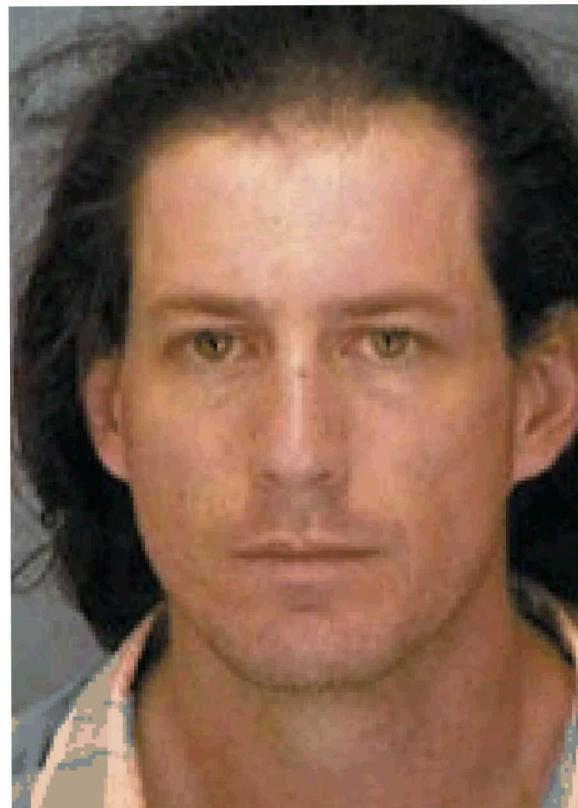
- Opioids and acetic anhydride
- Pseudoephedrine and methamphetamine
- Ethanol
- Fentanyl
- Others



# Illicit Drug Production—Methamphetamines



Image of a methamphetamine lab



2008, UC Merced, Student Stole  
~\$10k in chemicals to make meth

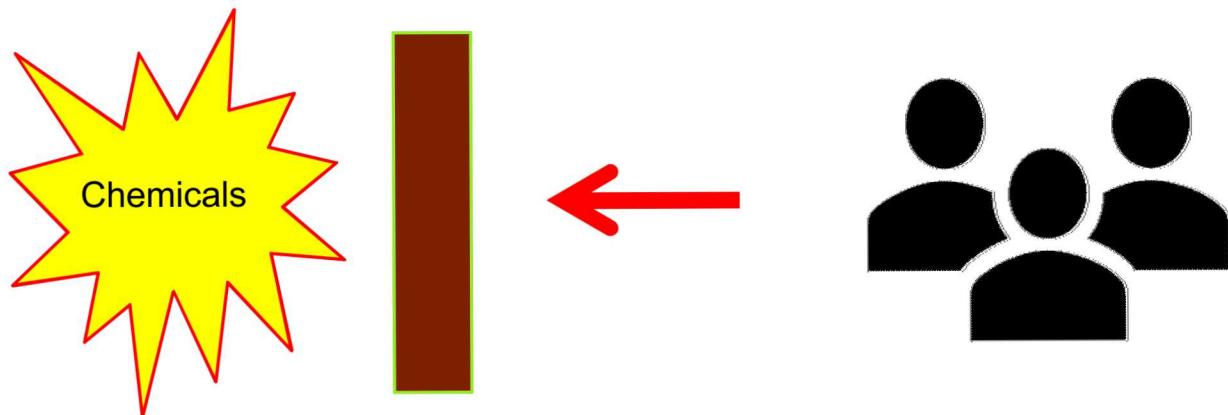


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# What is Chemical Security?

*Protecting Chemicals from People (with ill intent or limited knowledge of chemistry)*

**Chemical  
Security**



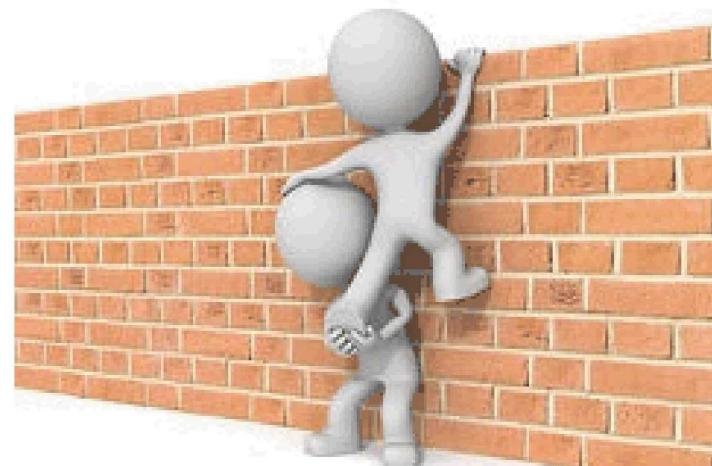
# Who are we protecting chemicals from?

## Types of threats

- Insiders
  - Often the most difficult to protect against
- Outsiders
- Collusion

## Motivation of Threats

- Ideology
  - Terrorism or Activism
- Financial
- Coercion
- Others ( Limited or no knowledge of chemistry)



# Threats to Hospitals

Hospitals often have less security than government or commercial facilities

- Buildings and labs are more open, less secured
- Many transient people
- Many chemicals and equipment spread out in hospital buildings and labs

Threats exist from

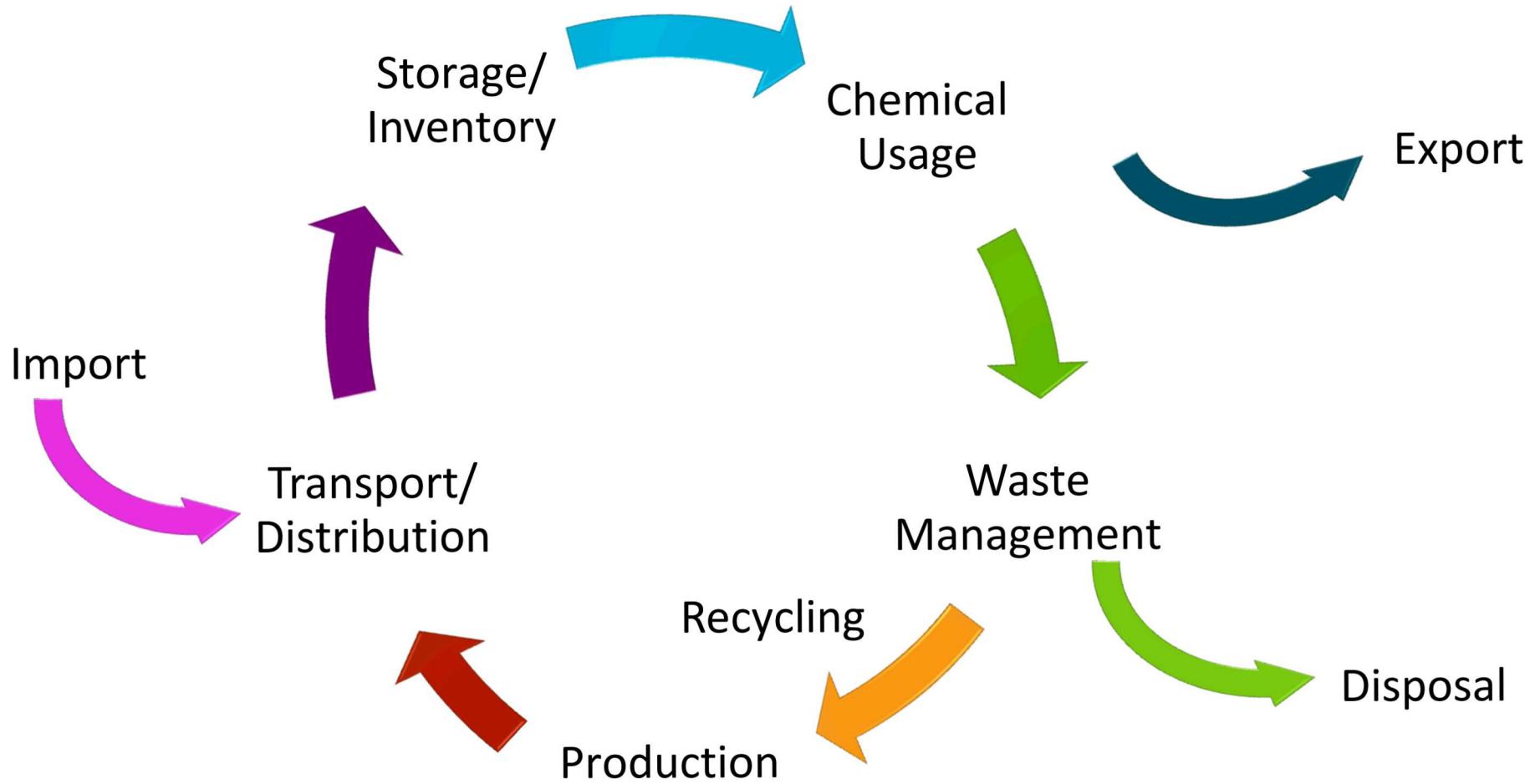
- Terrorist groups and other extremists
- Protestors
- Criminal gangs
- Patients
- Internal personnel (insider threats)



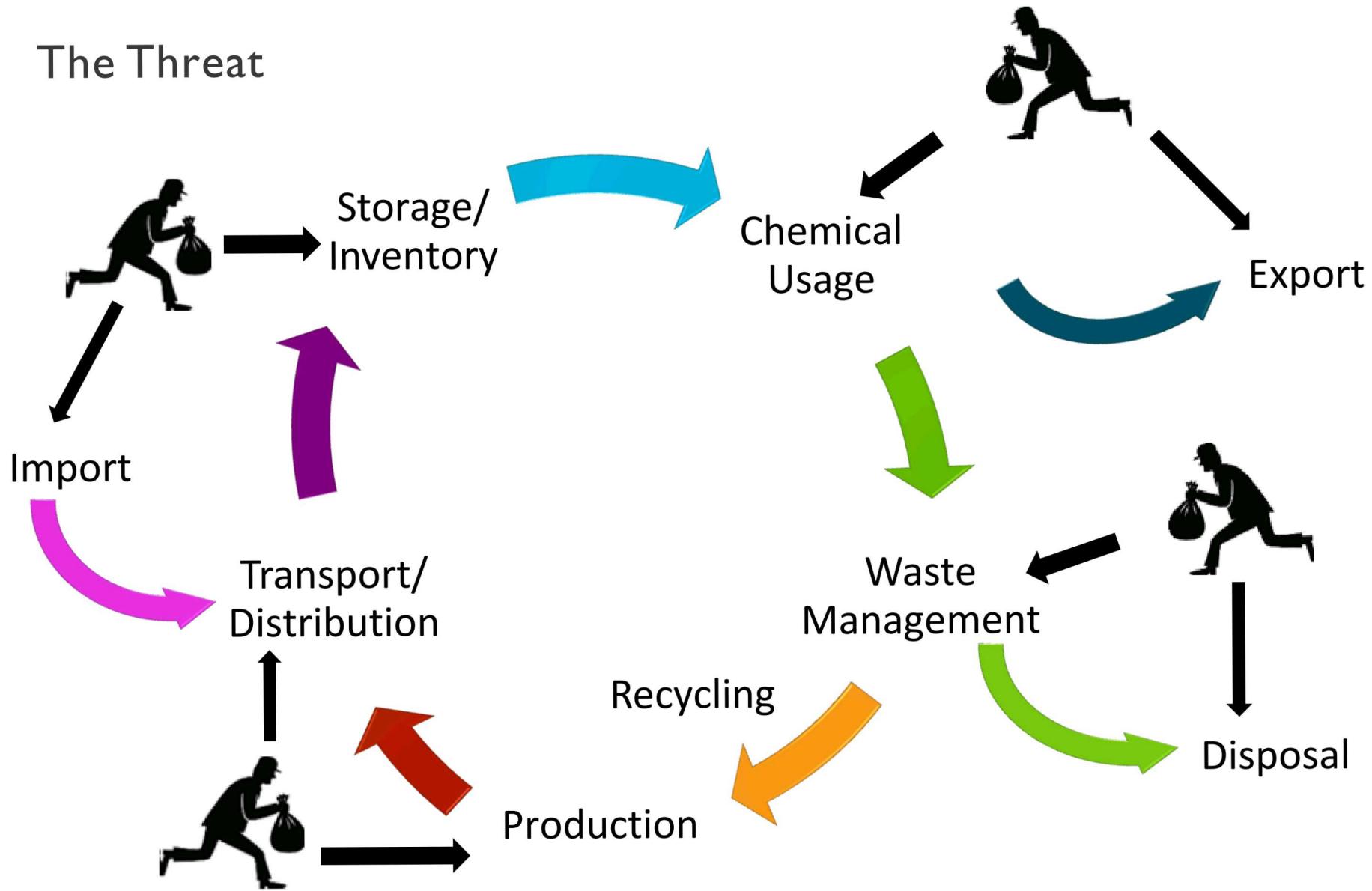
# Some Chemicals Found in Hospitals

Chloroform	Isoflurane	Pseudoephedrine
Ethylene	Nitrous oxide	Ammonia
Ethylene Oxide	Sevoflurane	Fentanyl
Glutaraldehyde	Desflurane	
Xylene	Chlorine and other bleaches	
Formaldehyde	iodophores	
Glycol ethers	ortho-benzyl- parachlorophenol (Clorox)	
Hydrogen peroxide	Quaternary ammonium compounds	
Peracetic acid (peroxyacetic acid (PAA))	Ketamine	
Orthophenylphenol (Amphyl)	Lysergic acid	

# Chemical Life Cycle: Procurement to Disposal



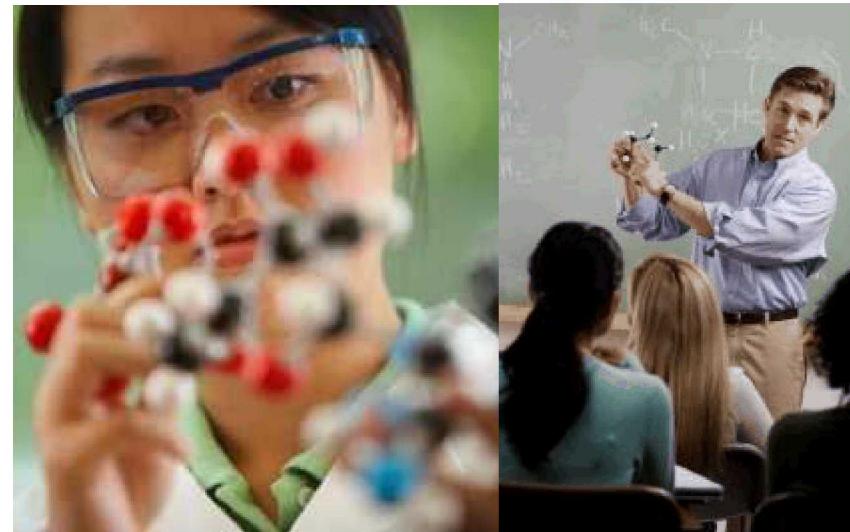
# The Threat



## Dual Use Expertise

- The expertise of scientists and workers in the lab is also coveted and can be misused

- Professors
- Graduate students
- Technologists
- Facilities / stock room workers
- Administration / other personnel



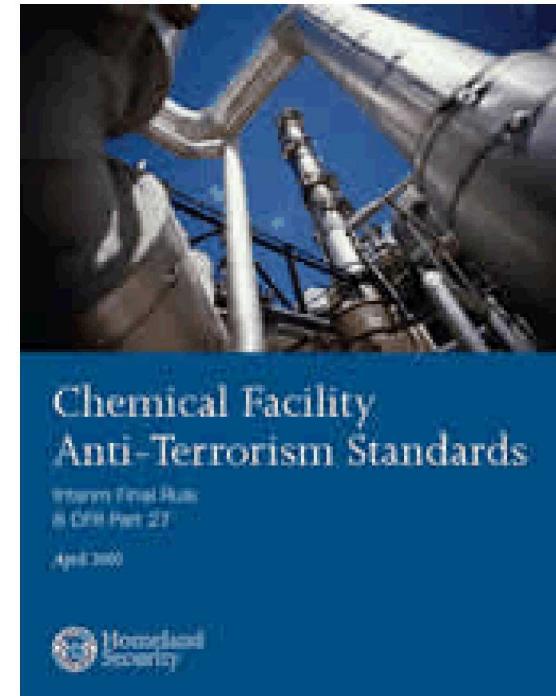
- Personnel reliability should be a consideration when managing people in the lab

**Chemical expertise also needs to be considered and secured**



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# How Do We Stop Illicit Usage of Chemicals?



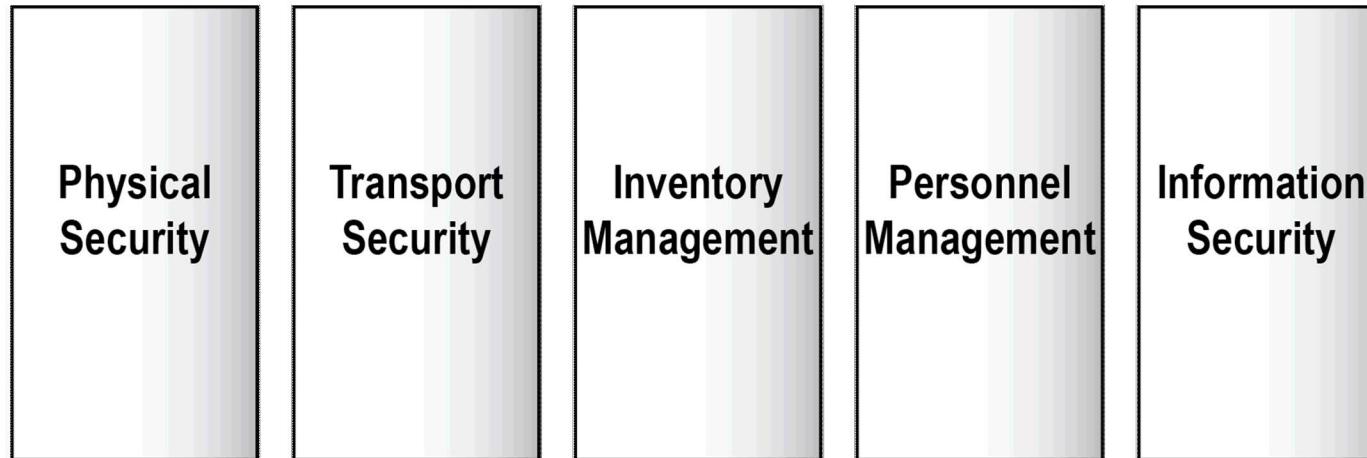
OPCW

1997-**2017**  
OPCW  
YEARS



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# Regulations Are Just One Piece of the Solution

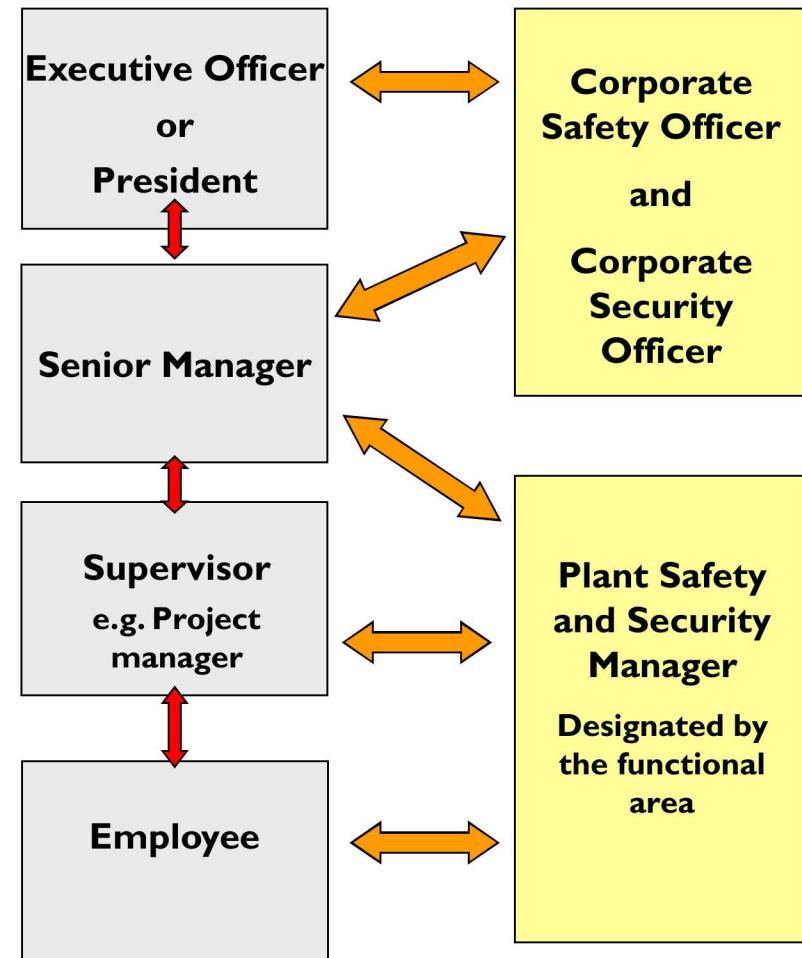


Culture, Procedures, Regulations, Management



# Chemical Safety and Security Culture

- Should exist at all levels of the organization
- Top management sets policy, provides resources
- Workers must understand and implement
- Many organizational interactions are important



## Final Thoughts and Comments

- Unfortunately, chemicals have been and will continue to be misused by individuals and groups with malicious intent
- We need to be concerned with
  - Chemicals of Concern – especially dual-use chemicals
  - Equipment
  - Expertise
- A proper understanding of the hazards and threats will help determine the risk – and the proper precautions can then be considered





# Questions?



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