



## (U//FOUO) Security Threats to Pipeline Infrastructure<sup>1</sup>

(U//FOUO) **Scope Note:** The Kansas City Regional Fusion Center (KCRFC) has prepared the following Situational Awareness Bulletin to provide information to partners concerning a developing threat targeting Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR), especially oil and natural gas pipelines. This is the first situational awareness bulletin from KCRFC on this topic.

Information Cutoff: 4 April 2023

### (U) Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) The movie *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* will be released to theaters in the United States on 7 April 2023.

(U//FOUO) The KCRFC has no information on specific threats directed at the energy sector in this area. However, CIKR is consistently identified as an extremist target due to the high consequences of a successful attack.

### (U) Overview

(U//FOUO) Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) advocate for attacks against CIKR to disrupt life for everyday Americans, convey their beliefs and grievances, and inspire other, similar attacks to perpetuate their belief systems.

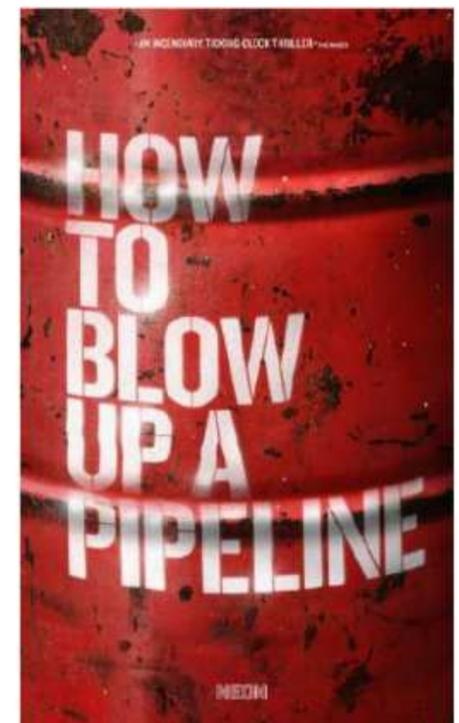
(U//FOUO) Serious physical security incidents on energy infrastructure, including vandalism, tampering, arson, and ballistic damage, increased nationwide in 2022.<sup>2</sup> The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assess that violent extremist advocates will likely continue to plot physical attacks against the energy infrastructure.<sup>3</sup>

(U//FOUO) The FBI defines eco-terrorism as, "... the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against victims or property by an environmentally oriented, subnational group for environment-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often symbolic in nature."<sup>4</sup>

(U//FOUO) The movie, *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* is a fictional adaptation of the non-fiction book with the same name. The movie explores the political themes that extensive and relentless property destruction and sabotage of energy-related infrastructure is the most effective way to disrupt production and create greater economic risk for the oil and gas industry.<sup>5</sup>

(U//FOUO) The movie details physical security vulnerabilities in the pipeline and stresses sabotage as legitimate and necessary. While the book and movie advocate for property destruction and targeted sabotage, not the targeting of people, some social media posts have indicated the tactics employed do not go far enough.

(U//FOUO) The movie could potentially inspire similar attacks on critical infrastructure as shown in the film and further encourage environmental activists to engage in increasingly violent action.



<sup>1</sup> (U//FOUO) Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC), *Security Threats to Pipeline Infrastructure*, 27 March 2023.

<sup>2</sup> (TLP: GREEN) Electricity-Information Sharing and Analysis Center, *Recent Physical Security Attack Against the Grid*, 16 December 2022.

<sup>3</sup> (U//FOUO) Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, *Domestic Violent Extremists Likely to Continue Physical Threats Against Electricity Infrastructure DHS-IA-IF-2022\_00694*, 24 January 2022.

<sup>4</sup> (U) Federal Bureau of Investigation, *The Threat of Eco-Terrorism*, 12 February 2002.

<sup>5</sup> (U) Kundel, B, *The Climate Case for Property Destruction*, The New Republic, 26 May 2021.

### (U) Oil and Natural Gas Pipelines

(U//FOUO) Pipeline infrastructure crisscrosses every state, including counties in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Most of the sites involve moving natural gas and crude oil.

(U//FOUO) The National Pipeline Mapping System, a program of the United States Department of Transportation, contains a dataset of locations and information on gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines under the jurisdiction of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The public map viewer is available at <https://pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer>. This is a publicly accessible website and a potential resource for research/planning by both responders and potential attackers.

(U//FOUO) [First Responder's Toolbox - Complex Operating Environment - Oil and Gas Pipelines \(dni.gov\)](#)

### (U) Suspicious Activity Awareness

(U//FOUO) Due to the heightened threat environment to energy infrastructure, public safety personnel are encouraged to engage in enhanced situational awareness near CIKR. Suspicious activity may include:

- (U) Surveillance: individuals taking pictures of critical infrastructure, entrances and exits, government buildings, security cameras, and individuals taking notes.
- (U) Elicitation: individuals asking about security staff, how many security staff are on at a certain time and asking about day-to-day operations.
- (U) Tests of Security: observing individuals trying to access secured areas, trying to follow staff into secure areas, bomb threats, and threats against individuals/organizations/sites.
- (U) Acquiring Supplies: individuals or groups acquiring uniforms, badges, chemicals, weapons, or materials to construct explosive devices.
- (U) Suspicious Persons Out of Place: observing individuals that appear to have no reason to be in the area they are in and people who do not appear to belong.
- (U) Dry Run/Trial Run: practice run before an actual attack to work out any flaws or unanticipated problems and mapping out routes, timing, and traffic flow.
- (U) Deploying Assets: people/supplies are in place to carry out a criminal or terrorist attack.<sup>6</sup>

**(U) SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING:** The KCRFC encourages all personnel to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities as appropriate. Report any suspicious activities to local law enforcement or online through [SafeNation](#) or the SafeNation app for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#).

### (U) First Amendment Acknowledgement

(U//FOUO) The KCRFC continues to recognize the constitutionally protected rights afforded to all people under the First Amendment. Further, the KCRFC recognizes that potential criminality exhibited by individuals does not negate the constitutionally protected rights of any group, and the KCRFC reports on only those activities where the potential use of rhetoric and/or propaganda could be used to incite violent or criminal acts.

(U//FOUO) This assessment is a KCRFC product provided for your situational awareness. This assessment contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) and Missouri Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMo). Recipients are reminded that intelligence products contain sensitive criminal, terrorism, and counterterrorism information meant for use primarily within law enforcement and homeland security communities. This document is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with federal and state guidelines relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be modified or released to the public, the media, or officials who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval from the KCRFC.

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<sup>6</sup> (U) Virginia Fusion Center, *Recognizing and Reporting Potential Terrorist Activities*, (n.d.).