



Beware of Ecoterrorism!

www.ocfa.org

Terrorism in the name of animal and environmental protection has steadily increased during the past decade in the United States and arson is one of the main acts in carrying out their threats. Automobile dealerships, forestry companies, corporate and university-based medical research laboratories, medical-supply firms and other industries continue to be targets. Despite a few successes by law enforcement in capturing those responsible for ecoterror-related crimes, most acts remain unsolved. Ecoterror cells remain extremely difficult to identify and infiltrate, and it is likely that this rapidly growing movement will re-appear soon. The following information was obtained through the Anti-Defamation League.



ECOTERRORISM

The FBI defines eco-terrorism as the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally-oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature.

During the past two decades, radical environmental and animal rights groups have claimed responsibility for hundreds of crimes and acts of terrorism including arson, bombings, vandalism and harassment, causing more than \$100 million in damage. While some activists have been captured, ecoterror cells - small and loosely affiliated - are extremely difficult to identify and most attacks remain unsolved. Ecoterrorism remains one of the country's most active terrorist movements.



www.ocfa.org

ALF: The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) is the nation's most active extreme animal rights movement. Composed of anonymous underground cells that oppose any form of animal experimentation and perceived mistreatment, it aims to rescue animals from "places of abuse" and to "inflict economic damage to those who profit from the misery and exploitation of animals [sic]". ALF cells have claimed responsibility for hundreds of "direct actions," a euphemism for crimes that include freeing animals from their owners and property destruction.



Ecoterrorism runs on the concept of leaderless resistance, and is sometimes referred to by experts as the type of terrorism most likely to be seen throughout all the 21st century.

ELF: By 2004, ALF's environmental counterpart, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), was setting new records for property damage. Modeled after ALF, ELF consists of "autonomous groups of people" who are "anonymous not only to the public but also to one another," according to its Web site. The movement aims to "inflict economic damage on those profiting from the destruction and exploitation of the natural environment" and "to reveal and educate the public on the atrocities committed against the earth and all species that populate it." Acts of property destruction are considered by ELF to be non-violent because no human being or animals are targeted.

For More Information

If you see ELF, ALF or similar graffiti, report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency.

www.adl.org/Learn/Ext_US/Ecoterrorism.asp

www.fbi.gov

