

# Case Study Jared Atkins

February 28, 2024



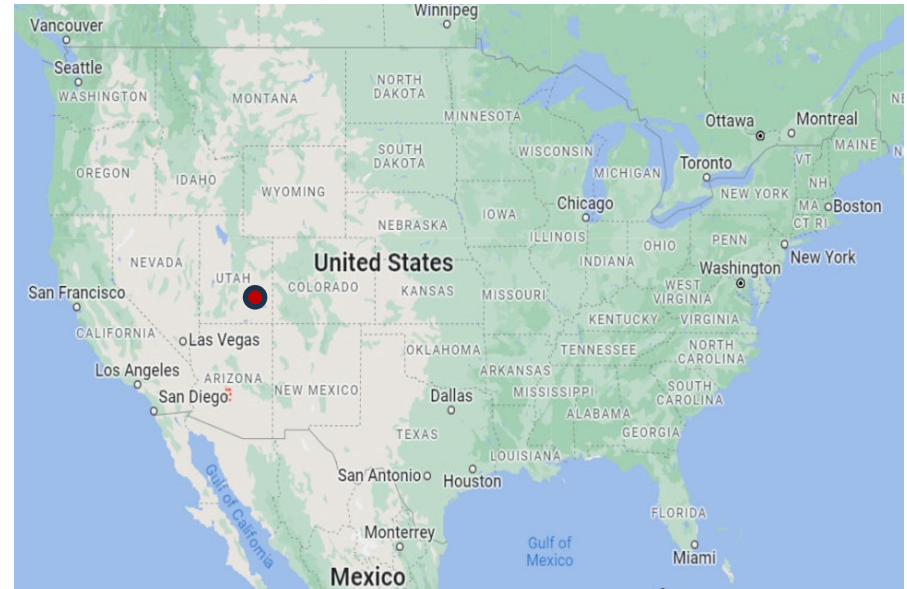
Global  
Material  
Security



**ORS**  
Office of Radiological Security  
*Protect · Remove · Reduce*

## Atkins Case Overview

- ◆ Theft of industrial radioactive material Phoenix, AZ, U.S.A.
- ◆ Theft by an employee (Insider)
- ◆ Threatened to use material to create an RED and start an active shooter event
- ◆ Sources were unaccounted for nearly 9 hours



## Suspect

- ◆ Jared Atkins
- ◆ 25 years old
- ◆ Employed by Western Technologies Inc.
  - Specializes in engineering and consulting services and non-destructive testing
  - Level II tech and primary maintenance tech for radiological devices
- ◆ Heavy alcohol use



## Approximately 0035 hours

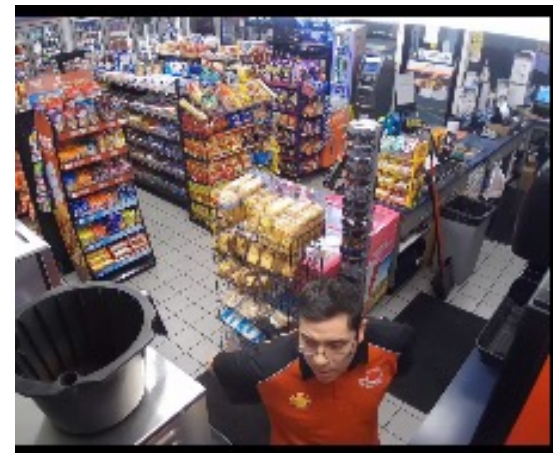
- ◆ Atkins gets into fight with his girlfriend and leaves their apartment

**WARNING:**  
The following slide contains graphic photos

## Timeline

### Approximately 0045 hours

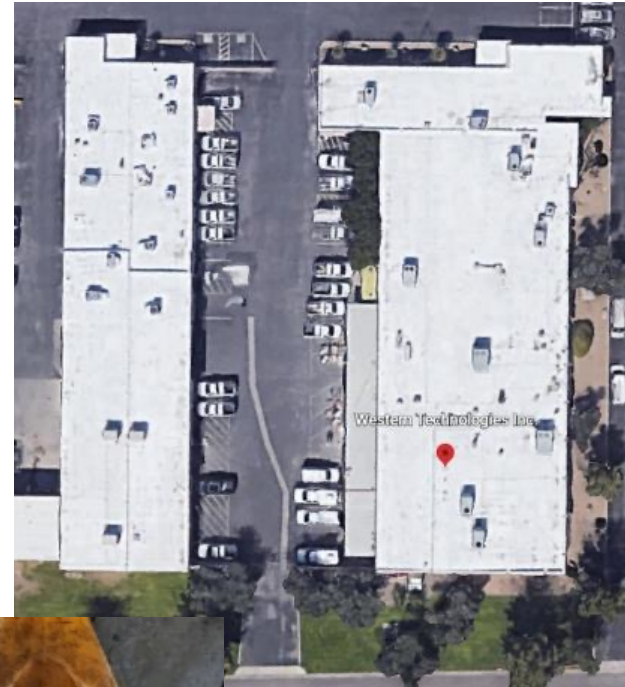
- ◆ Atkins goes to a convenience store near his apartment and assaults the clerk, stabbing him
- ◆ He flees the scene
- ◆ Phoenix Police respond to the stabbing and start investigation



## Timeline

### Approximately 0120 hours

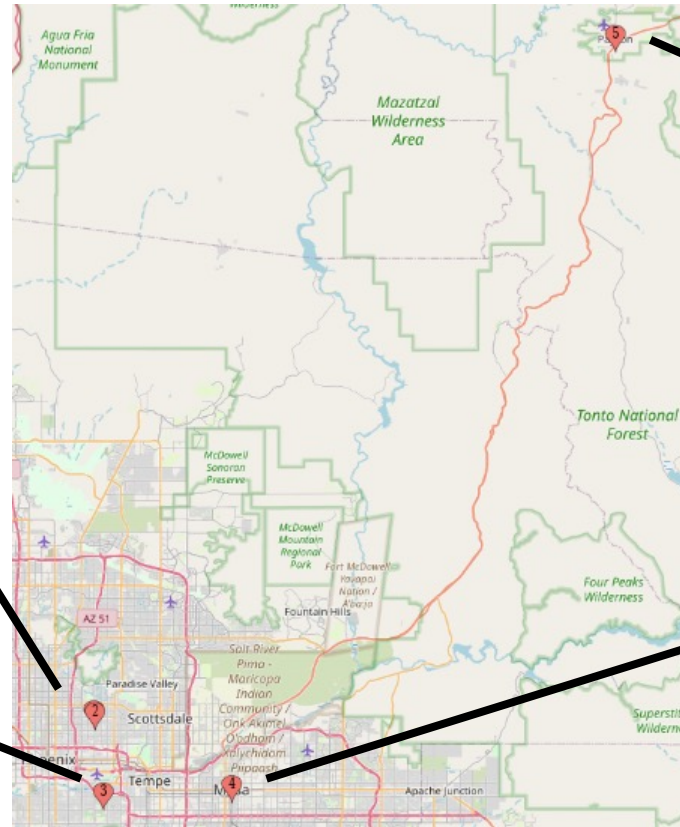
- ◆ Atkins steals three 880 Delta Projectors from his employer, Western Technologies
- ◆ He also takes tools to remove the sources from the projectors



## Approximately 0154 hours

- ◆ Atkins goes to a car dealership in Mesa, AZ and sets it on fire
- ◆ Law Enforcement does not know calls of stabbing and fire are related at this time

# Key Locations



Atkins Apartment  
Convenience Store

Western Technologies

Mount Ord, Payson, AZ

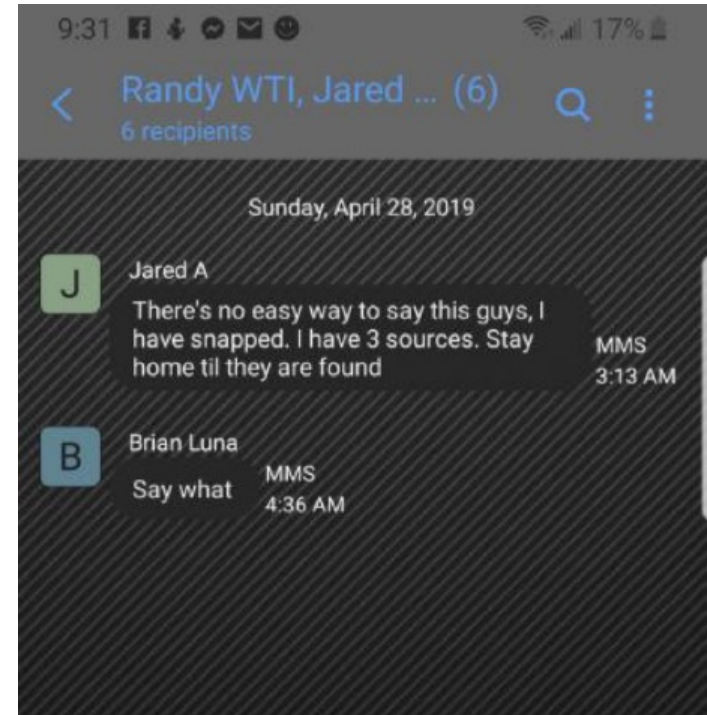
Car Dealership  
Mesa, AZ



## Approximately 0313 hours

### ◆ Atkins sends a text to co-workers

“There’s no easy way to say this guys, I have snapped. I have 3 sources. Stay home until they are found.”



## Approximately 0313-0600 hours

- ◆ Atkins is unaccounted for during this time
- ◆ Consider the lack of timely notification and possible actions Atkins could have taken during this time period

## Approximately 0600-0720 hours

- ◆ Two Western Technologies employees arrive at their facility to begin their workday
- ◆ One of the Western Technologies employees notifies Phoenix Police three projectors have been stolen



## Approximately 0600 hours

- ◆ Atkins goes to Scottsdale Fashion Square Shopping Mall
- ◆ Later admits to planning on releasing Iridium-192



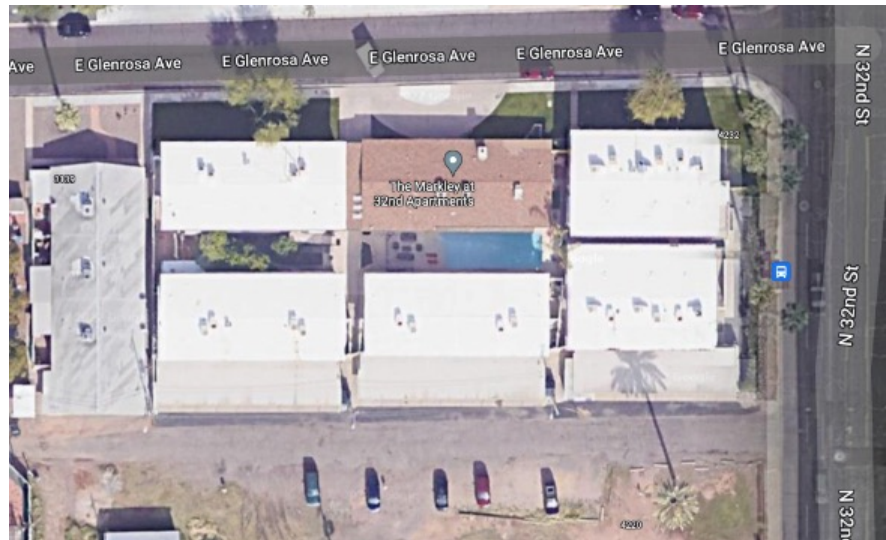
## Approximately 0600-0930

- ◆ Phoenix Police notifies Phoenix FBI office of incident
- ◆ FBI begins notifications to their various assets
  - Stabilization Team
  - WMD Coordinator
- ◆ FBI goes to Atkins apartment to interview family

## Timeline

### Approximately 1030 hours

- ◆ Atkins returns to his apartment and barricades himself inside with his mother and girlfriend



## Timeline

### Approximately 1030-1230 hours

- ◆ FBI and Phoenix Police Department negotiate with Atkins, who ends up surrendering to law enforcement
- ◆ All 3 projectors were found in his Jeep



## Full Timeline

- ◆ **0035:** Fight, leaves apartment
- ◆ **0045:** Stabs clerk, flees
- ◆ **0120:** Steals projectors and tools
- ◆ **0154:** Sets car dealership on fire
- ◆ **0313:** Texts coworkers
- ◆ **0313-0600:** Atkins is unaccounted for
- ◆ **0600-0720:** Western Technologies employee reports theft to PD
- ◆ **0600:** Atkins goes to Scottsdale mall
- ◆ **0600-0930:** PD notifies FBI; FBI begins notifications, goes to Atkins apartment to interview family
- ◆ **1030:** Atkins barricades self in apartment
- ◆ **1030-1230:** Law enforcement negotiate with Atkins, who surrenders



Atkins was sentenced to 15 years for use of weapons of mass destruction, along with 3.5 years for the aggravated assault and arson.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 4, 2021

### **Phoenix Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Planning to Release Stolen Radiological Materials in Scottsdale and Payson**

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Jared Trent Atkins, 27, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John J. Tuchi to 15 years in prison, followed by twelve years of supervised release. Atkins previously pleaded guilty to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

## Lessons Learned

### ◆ Insider Threat

- Atkins was an insider who already had access and no criminal history
- Atkins also had the technical expertise regarding the sources

### ◆ Access Control

- After-hours access
- Two-person rule

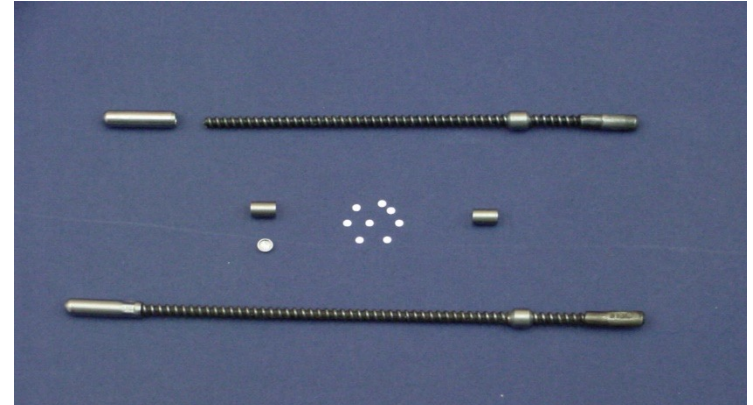
### ◆ Early Notification

- Get response assets notified as soon as possible
- Text sent at approx. 0300 hours and no employees went to the facility until 0600

### ◆ Containment

- At the first alarm or sign of threat/theft, locating and containing the suspect and sources should be the **top priority**

# Sentinel 880 Series IR Camera



Source	150 Ci (x 3) Ir-192	450 Ci Ir-192	16,700,000 MBq
Distance	1 CM	2,000,000 R/hr	20,000 Sv/hr
Distance	1M	200 R/hr	2 Sv/hr
Distance	2M	50 R/hr	.5 Sv/hr



# Video



# Questions?