

Writer Goes to Prison for Sending Fake Anthrax

Marc M. Keyser has been sentenced to 51 months in prison for sending containers labeled "anthrax" to many places.

Anthrax is a severe disease spread by spores. The spores can be used as a weapon.

Keyser had written a book about possible anthrax attacks by terrorists. He put a copy of it on CD and mailed it to a newspaper in Sacramento, California. With the CD was a can labeled "anthrax". When the package was opened, the newspaper building had to be evacuated. Police and hazmat (hazardous material) workers were called.

An FBI agent told Keyser that if he did this again, he could be charged. However, the next year, when Keyser sent out CD's of another new book, he put in sugar packets labeled "anthrax". He sent over 100 of these to the media, stores, and officials in many States. Police, fire departments, and hazmat teams were often called out because of this.

Keyser says he hoped news reports about these things would help him sell his book. The judge told him, "You want attention more than anything."

Source: <http://sacramento.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/sc042610.htm>

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