



District Safety Advisory

National Terrorism Threats – Advisory System

Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System is a means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and to the American people. The system utilizes a color-code system to identify the probability of terrorist threats.

- Red = “Severe”
- Orange = “High”
- Yellow = “Elevated”
- Blue = “Guarded”
- Green = “Low”



The federal government issues such alerts to raise awareness among Americans in the hope that a vigilant community can help thwart terrorist activities. Therefore, the Department of Homeland Security and federal and local law enforcement renew their request that all citizens be alert and report suspicious activities to the FBI and local jurisdiction (Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office at any District location).

Recent Alert Level Change

The Director of Homeland Security, in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General and FBI Director, previously raised the national terrorism threat level to “orange”, indicating a “high risk of terrorist attacks”. Additionally, a general, non-specific threat against lightly secured or “soft targets” was declared. The threat level was subsequently reduced to “yellow”, indicating an “elevated risk of terrorist attacks”. Most recently, the threat level was again raised to “orange”. To find out what the current advisory status on National Terrorism Threats, you may visit the below listed websites.

Additional Information Available

For more information on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, visit the Whitehouse link at www.whitehouse.gov/deptofhomeland/ and/or the Department’s website at www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/.



BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

District Safety Advisory

National Terrorism Threats – Be Ready

Be Ready

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recently published guidelines to assist Americans in learning about potential threats so that citizens are better prepared to react during a national terrorism threat or respond to an actual attack. The Department does not claim to predict what will happen or to whom however there are actions that can be taken to better prepare individuals and families. The Department has established three steps to prepare for terrorist attacks:

- Make an emergency supply kit;
- Make a family plan; and
- Be informed of what may happen during an attack.

Emergency Supplies

- ✓ *Food and Water.* An emergency kit should include enough food and water to last at least three days without assistance. A permanent or stationary kit is advised as well as a portable kit in the event you must temporarily evacuate your home. You will need one gallon of water per person per day. The food should be canned or dried foods that are easy to store and prepare.
- ✓ *Miscellaneous Supplies.* Other supplies may include a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, toilet articles, prescription medicines and other special things your family may need.
- ✓ *Protection Against Harmful Air Contaminants.* Staying indoors while biological, chemical, or radioactive air contaminants pass by is an effective means to reduce harmful exposure. Also, include duct tape and heavyweight garbage bags or plastic sheeting that can be used to seal windows and doors if you need to create a barrier between yourself and any potential contamination outside. However, creating an occupied airtight environment can also result in a greater hazard as carbon dioxide levels rise with diminishing oxygen concentrations.
Respirators. A respirator with attached canister(s) can be an effective **temporary** means of purifying air, but only if equipped with the proper filtration media. Individuals should be medically certified **prior to using** respirators.

Family Plans

- ✓ Assess the situation
- ✓ Decide to go or stay, include re-assembly plans in the event of an evacuation
- ✓ Make a list of out-of-state contacts

Be Informed

- ✓ A *biological attack* is the deliberate release of germs or other substances that can make you sick. Many agents must be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin or eaten to make you sick.
- ✓ A *chemical attack* is the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid or solid that can poison people and the environment.
- ✓ A *nuclear blast* is an explosion with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water and ground surfaces for miles around.
- ✓ A *radiation threat* or "Dirty Bomb" is the use of common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area.

Additional Information Available

For more information on how to prepare for emergencies, visit the Department's website link at www.ready.gov/ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently published a manual to help individuals prepare themselves and their families for disasters. *Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness* (FEMA publication H-34) brings together facts on disaster survival techniques, disaster-specific information, and how to prepare for and respond to both natural and man-made disasters.

