

ESP FOCUS

Actions for Threat Levels



The Homeland Security Advisory System was designed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to provide warnings to the American people about the threat level for a terrorist attack.

The United States Department of Homeland Security has established threat conditions or levels, and each has a specific color. Government emergency managers have specific actions they take depending on the threat level. The greater the risk of a terrorist attack, the higher the threat level.

The United States Attorney General and the Secretary for Homeland Security establish the threat level. The threat level is constantly reviewed and may be changed at any time.

The five threat levels and their meanings are as follows:

1. Low Condition (Green): Low risk of terrorist attacks.
2. Guarded Condition (Blue): General risk of terrorist attacks.
3. Elevated Condition (Yellow): Significant risk of terrorist attacks. The public should be alert to suspicious activity.
4. High Condition (Orange): High risk of terrorist attacks. Officials will take additional precautions at public events and restrict access to some specific sites within a city or area.

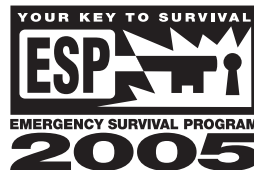
5. Severe Condition (Red): Severe risk of terrorist attacks. Officials may close public and government buildings, activate special teams and limit transportation systems. People should avoid public gathering places and stay tuned to the media.

TAKE ACTION

The reverse side of this sheet has recommended actions for you and your family to take for each of the threat conditions or levels on the Homeland Security Advisory System. The more you know about these actions, the better you can prepare your family.

CHECK THESE WEBSITES

- www.dhs.gov (United States Department of Homeland Security)
- www.fema.gov (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
- www.oes.ca.gov (California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)
- www.redcross.org (American Red Cross)



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HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow the actions listed below for the different threat levels.

Low

- Contact your local Office of Emergency Services or American Red Cross for terrorism preparedness information.
- Develop a personal disaster plan and disaster supplies kit.

Guarded

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police or workplace security.
- Review stored disaster supplies and replace items that are outdated.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Contact your children's schools to determine their emergency notification and evacuation plans.
- Establish an alternate meeting place away from home.

Elevated

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police, sheriff, or workplace security.
- Review your disaster plan with all family members.
- Make sure that your disaster supplies kit is stocked and ready to use.
- Have shelter in place materials on hand.
- Check telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in your family emergency communication plan and update them as necessary.
- Develop alternate routes to/from school/work and practice them.

High

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police, sheriff, or workplace security.
- Exercise caution when traveling.
- Listen to the radio/TV for current information and/or instructions.
- Ensure that your communication plan is understood and practiced by all family members.
- Discuss children's fears concerning possible terrorist attacks.
- If a need is announced, donate blood at a designated blood collection center.

Severe

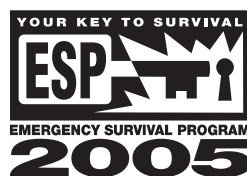
- Listen to the radio/TV for current information and/or instructions.
- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to your local police, sheriff, or workplace security immediately.
- Contact your business or school to determine the status of work or school day.
- Adhere to any travel restrictions announced by local authorities.
- Be prepared to shelter in place or evacuate if instructed to do so by local authorities.
- Discuss children's fears concerning possible or actual terrorist attacks.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

The following are examples of suspicious activities that you should report to authorities:

- Unusual behavior, incidents, or smells
- Unusual dress for the season
- Large purchases of fertilizer or similar products
- Missing uniforms or identification
- Unusual or unattended packages or suitcases

Sources for this document include the "FEMA: KIDS – Homeland Security Advisory System" (www.fema.gov) and the American Red Cross "Homeland Security Advisory System Recommendations"



This focus sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.