

# HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM

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## **Homeland Security Advisory System**

The Homeland Security Advisory System provides a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. This system provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies would implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert. The following protective measures are general recommendations for schools. In the event that the threat level increases to red, school districts may or may not need to take specific protective action. The nature of the emergency will dictate the response.

### **Threat Conditions and Recommended Protective Measures for Schools**

The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested protective measures. Each school district is responsible for developing and implementing appropriate specific emergency plans.



This condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks. The following general measures should be considered in addition to any specific plans that are developed and implemented:

- Refine and exercise as appropriate, school and district emergency plans.
- Train teachers and staff on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific emergency plans.
- Assess school sites for proximity and vulnerability to potential terrorist targets (i.e. San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, Disneyland, etc.) and updating plans as needed.
- Develop and implement security procedures.
- Conduct routine inventories of emergency supplies and medical kits.
- Know how to turn off water, power, and gas to your facilities.
- Budget for security measures.
- Advise all personnel to report the presence of unknown suspicious persons, vehicles, mail, and other suspicious activities.
- Develop visitor identification and sign in procedures.
- Arrange for staff members take a First Aid/CPR course.

**BLUE:  
GENERAL RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACK**

This condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. The following general measures should be considered in addition to any specific plans that are developed and implemented:

- Communicate the change in threat level to all staff members.
- Check and test emergency communications.
- Review and update emergency response procedures.
- Provide parents or guardians with any information that would strengthen a school's ability to respond to a terrorist threat.
- Mark keys with "Do Not Duplicate".
- Conduct routine perimeter checks of site, checking integrity of fencing, locks, and ensuring appropriate security signage is in place.
- Review and update emergency calling list.
- Review current emergency communication plan to notify parents in times of emergency; disseminate information to families of students, staff, and faculty.

**YELLOW  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACK**

An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. The following measures should be considered in addition to any specific plans that are developed and implemented:

- Communicate the change in threat level to all staff members.
- Review whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of any current emergency plans.
- Implement, as appropriate, contingency emergency response plans.
- Identify and monitor government sources for warnings.
- Review mail handling, and delivery of packages procedures with staff.
- Consider escorts for building visitors.
- Check site for unattended packages.
- Increase perimeter checks of site, check buildings for unattended packages, and report any suspicious activity or circumstances to law enforcement immediately.

**ORANGE  
HIGH RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACK**

A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. The following measures should be considered in addition to any specific plans that are developed and implemented:

- Communicate the change in threat level to all staff members.
- Identify the need for any additional security and coordinating efforts, if necessary, with local law enforcement agencies.
- Evaluate school events and take additional precautions, if necessary.
- Consider assigning mental health counselors for students, staff and faculty, if needed.
- Discuss student's fears concerning possible terrorist attacks and offer available resources.
- Consider reducing site ingress and egress points to an absolute minimum.
- Refuse access to people who do not have identification or a legitimate need to enter the site.
- Request additional patrol checks from local law enforcement.
- Inspect all deliveries; restrict parking near buildings, and report suspicious vehicles to local law enforcement.

**RED:  
SEVERE RISK OF  
TERRORIST  
ATTACKS**

A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the protective measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. The following measures should be considered in addition to any specific plans that are developed and implemented:

- Communicate the change in threat level to all staff members.
- Consider activating your EOC.
- Gather and provide related information to students, staff and parents.
- Assess the threat condition on a regular basis and evaluate whether any further protective measures are needed.
- Consider canceling special events.
- Consider closing campuses, if necessary.
- Maintain close contact with law enforcement.
- Monitor all deliveries and mail to your buildings.
- Provide security for parking lots; deploy personnel necessary to protect facility.
- Be prepared to evacuate if ordered.
- Ensure mental health counselors are available for students, staff and faculty.

**Listed below are web sites that provide additional information.**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

<http://www.nasponline.org/>

<http://www.sdarc.org>

<http://www.co.san.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/health>

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/>

<http://www.bt.edc.gov/>

<http://www.sdcoe.net/student/ss>

<http://www.sdsheriff.net/home>

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

<http://www.firesafe.org/sdfd.html>

White House

Federal Dept. of Homeland Security

National Assn. of School Psychologists

San Diego/Imperial Counties Red Cross

Health and Human Services Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency

California Office of Emergency Services

Ctrs. for Disease Control and Prevention

S.D.C.O.E. Safe Schools Unit

San Diego Sheriff's Department

Federal Bureau of Investigation

San Diego Fire & Life Safety