



## Homeland Security Advisory System Recommended Actions

*Provided by the International Association of Fire Chiefs based upon recommendations from the American Red Cross and U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

<p><b>SEVERE (RED)</b></p> <p>Severe risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<p><b><i>Complete recommended actions at lower levels, and:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local community leaders, emergency management, government agencies, community organizations and utilities to meet immediate needs of the community</li> <li>• Assign emergency response personnel and pre-position and mobilize specially trained teams or resources</li> <li>• Be prepared to work with a dispersed or smaller work force</li> <li>• Increase or redirect personnel to address critical emergency needs</li> <li>• Monitor, redirect, or constrain transportation systems</li> <li>• Adhere to any travel restrictions announced by local governmental authorities</li> <li>• Contact businesses/schools to determine status of work/school day</li> <li>• 100% identification check (i.e. driver's license retained at front office) and escort of anyone entering fire station</li> <li>• Close public and government facilities</li> <li>• Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities immediately</li> <li>• Ensure mental health counselors available for employees</li> <li>• Listen to radio/TV for current information/instructions</li> </ul>
<p><b>HIGH (ORANGE)</b></p> <p>High risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<p><b><i>Complete recommended actions at lower levels, and:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact other key emergency response organizations to confirm their emergency response plan procedures</li> <li>• Coordinate necessary security efforts with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations</li> <li>• Have emergency supplies on hand, shelters readied, and review procedures</li> <li>• Ensure communication plan is understood/practiced by all department members</li> <li>• Review emergency plans to include continuity of operations and media materials</li> <li>• Determine need to restrict access to fire department property, fire stations and other key local business facilities.</li> <li>• Determine whether private security firm support/reinforcement is required</li> <li>• Take additional precautions at public events and possibly consider alternative venues or even cancellation</li> <li>• Prepare to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing workforce</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities</li> <li>• Exercise caution when traveling</li> </ul>
<p><b>ELEVATED (YELLOW)</b></p> <p>Significant risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<p><b><i>Complete recommended actions at lower levels, and:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions</li> <li>• Assess whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned protective measures</li> <li>• Implement, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans</li> <li>• Check telephone and pager numbers and e-mail addresses in your communication plan and update as necessary</li> <li>• Develop alternate routes of transit for emergency evacuation and practice them</li> <li>• Contact private security firm for security risk assessment and to determine availability of support/reinforcement</li> <li>• Increase surveillance of critical locations</li> <li>• Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>GUARDED (BLUE)</b></p> <p>General risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<p><b><i>Complete recommended actions at lower level, and:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish alternate staging locations</li> <li>• Ensure emergency communication plan updated and needed equipment is purchased</li> <li>• Check communications with designated emergency response or command locations</li> <li>• Review and update emergency response procedures</li> <li>• Provide the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately</li> <li>• Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>LOW (GREEN)</b></p> <p>Low risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive disaster/emergency response plan</li> <li>• Refine and exercise as appropriate preplanned protective measures</li> <li>• Ensure personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency protective measures</li> <li>• Institutionalize a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities</li> </ul>