

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory Bulletin

This DHS Bulletin, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/21_0127_ntas-bulletin.pdf, is intended & written for the lay public and its purpose is to alert all people of a need to be aware of their surrounding (aka `situational awareness). DHS has three (3) types of advisories, listed and defined, per DHS, from least to greatest urgency:

- Bulletin** – describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism
- Elevated Alert** -- warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States
- Imminent Alert** -- warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States

It is included here, in the event any public safety agencies, most likely EMS or Fire but might also be others, are not part of an intel-sharing system to receive DHS intel directly. These agencies can use this bulletin as a starting point in a variety of ways. Here are a few possibilities for its use.

1. As an introduction to local, state, and/or federal public safety partners that will definitely receive special and early intel, and be able to share real-time intel of both national, as well as state, regional, and local threats or concerns. These agencies include local & state police agencies, FBI, Secret Service, ATF field offices, etc.
2. It should remind law enforcement, if they are not already aware, that EMS and Fire are often the first First Responders on the scene and may recognize signs or symptoms of bioterrorism, identify weapons that can be used for mass destruction, or other types of threats. In other words, they make excellent partners.
3. It can be used as a starting point for identifying or setting up shared committees for planning and training purposes as part of a Unified Command system.
4. It can also be used to remind, or teach for the first time, situational awareness at all times and develop a policy and plan on identifying, responding to, reporting, and mitigating, if possible, early warning signs of terrorism or incidents that put citizens, responders and others at risk. These may include signs of unexpected crowd gatherings, people running away or towards a specific area, individuals or small groups who are dressed inappropriately for the weather (e.g., thick long pants and/or loose coats or jackets when the weather is warm), and shouting of inappropriate language or statements designed to demand a reaction or action.
5. Teach each individual if they "See something, to say something, " and who to alert. There used to be an FBI Telephone Hotline to report suspicious individuals or activity suggestive of possible terrorism. That seems to have changed to a recommendation to notify local law enforcement.

There is an FBI contact form that can (and should) be used to report the information as well <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us> .

One of the lessons learned in the immediate before and after time of 9/11 and other terrorist incidents, was that there were signs of activity that made both untrained civilians as well as First Responders, and others within the Public Safety and Law Enforcement network, take note. In some cases, they even reported or tried to report their observations, but the information was not shared between agencies, so was ultimately, was a lost prewarning.

The DHS See Something, Say Something Campaign with Links:

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/about-campaign/seesay-day>

The DHS See Something.... Page on How to Report Suspicious Activity with a US Map of States & Territories of Who and How to Notify Authorities:

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/how-to-report-suspicious-activity#>