



# COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

County Administration Building  
205 Academy Drive  
Abingdon, Virginia 24210  
(276) 676-6240 Telephone  
(276) 676-6201 Telefax  
E-mail: [mfraysier@washcova.com](mailto:mfraysier@washcova.com)  
[www.washcova.com](http://www.washcova.com)

## **Virginia Threat Warning System**

The County Department of Emergency Services is pleased to provide the attached document outlining Virginia's newly developed Commonwealth of Virginia Homeland Security Terrorist Threat Conditions System. The Virginia system mirrors the national system and provides a mechanism for designating threat levels without compromising sensitive information. The Virginia system, like its federal equivalent, is color coded for easy understanding. Unique in our state specific program are suggested precautions (guidelines) for each threat. These suggested precautions provide general guidance only. They can assist organizations with internal development of specific actions best tailored for their individual needs. The attached document provides precautions for citizens to undertake at each threat level.

Adjustments to the Commonwealth threat level can be precipitated by decisions of federal officials about the national program as well as by state officials in instances when threats specific to Virginia warrant a change. Notification of threat level changes will be communicated to citizens, government and others via multiple communication pathways (media, teletype, e-mail, mass fax etc.).



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST THREAT CONDITIONS

### **SEVERE THREAT – RED LEVEL – IMMINENT RISK**

**Definition:** A terrorist attack has occurred or credible and corroborated intelligence indicates that one is imminent. Normally, this threat condition is declared for a specific location or critical facility.

### **CITIZEN ACTIONS**

**In addition to all previously mentioned precautions, citizens are advised to:**

- Report suspicious activities and call 9-1-1 for immediate response.
- Expect delays, searches of purses and bags, and restricted access to public buildings.
- Expect traffic delays and restrictions.
- Take personal security precautions to avoid becoming a victim of crime or terrorist attack.
- Avoid crowded public areas and gatherings.
- Do not travel into areas affected by the attack or is an expected terrorist target.
- Keep emergency supplies accessible and automobile fuel tank full.
- Be prepared to evacuate your home or shelter in place on order of local authorities.
- Be suspicious of persons taking photographs of critical facilities, asking detailed questions about physical security or dressed inappropriately for weather conditions (suicide bomber). Report these incidents immediately to law enforcement.
- Closely monitor news reports and Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio/TV stations.
- Assist neighbors who may need help.
- Avoid passing unsubstantiated information and rumors.



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST THREAT CONDITIONS

### **HIGH THREAT – ORANGE LEVEL – HIGH RISK**

**Definition:** Credible intelligence indicates that there is a high risk of a local terrorist attack but a specific target has not been identified.

### **CITIZEN ACTIONS**

**In addition to all previously mentioned precautions, citizens are advised to:**

- Resume normal activities but expect some delays, baggage searches, and restrictions as a result of heightened security at public buildings and facilities.
- Continue to monitor world and local events as well as local government threat advisories.
- Report suspicious activities at or near critical facilities to local law enforcement agencies by calling 9-1-1.
- Avoid leaving unattended packages or brief cases in public areas.
- Inventory and organize emergency supply kits and discuss emergency plans with family members. Reevaluate meeting location based on threat.
- Consider taking reasonable personal security precautions. Be alert to your surroundings, avoid placing yourself in a vulnerable situation, and monitor the activities of your children.
- Maintain close contact with your family and neighbors to ensure their safety and emotional welfare.



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST THREAT CONDITIONS

### **ELEVATED THREAT – YELLOW LEVEL – ELEVATED RISK**

**Definition:** Elevated risk of terrorist attack but a specific region of the USA or target has **not** been identified.

#### **CITIZEN ACTIONS**

**In addition to all previously mentioned precautions, citizens are advised to:**

- Continue normal activities, but report suspicious activities to the local law enforcement agencies.
- Take a first aid or CERT class.
- Become active in your local Neighborhood Crime Watch program.
- Network with your family, neighbors, and community for mutual support during a disaster or terrorist attack.
- Learn what critical facilities are located in your community and report suspicious activities at or near these sites.
- Contact local officials to learn about specific hazards in your community.
- Increase individual or family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water, and emergency supplies.
- Monitor media reports concerning situation.



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST THREAT CONDITIONS

### **GUARDED THREAT – BLUE LEVEL – GENERAL RISK**

**Definition: General risk with no credible threats to specific targets.**

<p><b>CITIZEN ACTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>In addition to all previously mentioned precautions, citizens are advised to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue normal activities but be watchful for suspicious activities. Report criminal activity to local law enforcement.</li><li>• Review family emergency plans.</li><li>• Increase family emergency preparedness by purchasing supplies, food, and storing water.</li><li>• Be familiar with local natural and technological (man made) hazards in your community.</li><li>• Increase individual or family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water, and emergency supplies.</li><li>• Monitor local and national news for terrorist alerts.</li></ul>
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## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST THREAT CONDITIONS

### LOW THREAT – GREEN LEVEL – LOW RISK

**Definition:** Low risk of terrorism. Routine security is implemented to preclude routine criminal threats.

#### CITIZEN ACTIONS

##### Citizens are advised to:

- Continue to enjoy individual freedom. Participate freely in travel, work, and recreational activities.
- Be prepared for disasters and family emergencies.
- Develop a family emergency plan.
- Keep recommended immunizations up-to-date.
- Know how to turn off your power, gas, and water service to your house.
- Know what hazardous materials are stored in your home and how to properly dispose of unneeded chemicals.
- Support the efforts of your local emergency responders (fire fighters, law enforcement and emergency medical service).
- Know what natural hazards are prevalent in your area and what measures you can take to protect your family.
- Volunteer to assist and support the community emergency response agencies.