

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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RESPONSE TO FEDERAL THREAT LEVELS

I. **AUTHORITY**

Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220

II. **PURPOSE**

To improve awareness and preparedness of local EMS providers in response to potential terrorist threat.

III. **POLICY**

A. EMS Providers shall develop internal response policies for response to each threat level described in this policy.

IV. **PROCEDURE**

A. EMS Agency staff will notify each EMS provider agencies and hospitals when notification of a change in the Federal or local Threat Level has been received.

B. EMS dispatch agencies shall notify supervisors of each EMS provider service represented by the dispatch agency.

C. EMS Provider agencies shall respond according to the following table:

Local EMS Providers	Hospitals
LEVEL GREEN (Low: Low risk of terrorist attack)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No change in day-to-day activities. 2. Ongoing emergency management planning activities including for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) events and the potential of EMS as a secondary target. 3. Infection control measures as in normal operations. 4. EMS Department Operations Center not activated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No change in day-to-day activities. 2. Ongoing emergency management planning activities including for CBRNE events and the hospital as a secondary target. 3. Infection control and surveillance measures activities in normal operations. Ensure the performance of or update the facilities hazard vulnerability assessment. 4. Hospital EOC not activated.
Level Blue (Guarded: General risk of terrorist attack)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous level, plus: 2. Increase awareness of employees and security personnel to report unusual or suspicious activities, behaviors or events. 3. Ensure vehicle security and regular inspection. 4. On-going monitoring of news media and local alert(s) status. 5. EMS Department Operations Center not activated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous level, plus: 2. Increase awareness of employees and security personnel to report unusual or suspicious activities, behaviors or events. 3. Secure areas within the hospital that are not regularly utilized, especially storage areas and closed areas. 4. Ongoing monitoring of news media and local alert(s) status. 5. Hospital EOC not activated.
Level Yellow (Elevated: Significant risk of terrorist attack)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous levels, plus: 2. Communicate the need for enhanced security and awareness to all employees via messages/bulletins. 3. Ensure increase/enhanced security at the provider and dispatch facilities. 4. EMS Department Operations Center not activated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous levels, plus: 2. Communicate the need for enhanced security and awareness to all employees via messages/bulletins. 3. Consider visitor check-in and monitoring system. 4. Determine the need to restrict or direct employee and visitor ingress and egress from the facility. 5. Increase staff and physician awareness and need for bioterrorism illness surveillance and reporting. 6. Hospital EOC not activated.

LEVEL ORANGE (High: High risk of terrorist attack)

1. All actions in previous levels, plus:
2. Administration and/or ICS Command meet to determine level of direct threat to the facility/agency.
3. Consider the following actions:
 - a. Increase security staff on premises
 - b. Notification of employees for increased staffing.
 - c. Test callback notification systems
 - d. Ensure vehicles locked or not left unattended
 - e. Test redundant communication systems
 - f. Contact EMS agency, for situation status and other considerations.
 - g. Ambulance Strike Team leaders will communicate with command to assess status and possible need for activation.
 - h. EMS Department Operations Center may be activated to monitor and report situation status and determine the need and indication for full activation.
 - i. Contact EMS Agency for public health situation status and other considerations/coordination.
 - j. Coordinate PIO messages with **the EMS Agency.**

1. All actions in previous levels, plus:
2. Administration or HEICS/ICS Command Staff determine level of direct threat to the facility/agency.
3. Consider the following actions:
 - a. Increase security presence and/or staff on premises.
 - b. Test callback notification systems
 - c. Decrease number of ingress and egress public and employee access points to facility.
 - d. Test redundant communication systems.
 - e. Determine when emergency management plan may need to be activated
 - f. Contact EMS agency, health department or law enforcement for situation status and/or other considerations.
 - g. Increase bioterrorism surveillance activities of the Infection Control departments, focusing on Emergency Department admissions, clinic presentations and others within the facility.
 - h. Hospital EOC Command Staff may be activated to monitor and report situation status and determine need and indication for full activation.
 - i. Coordinate PIO messages with County EOC, local public health, EMS Agency and other emergency management agencies.

Local EMS Providers	Hospitals
LEVEL RED (Severe: Severe risk of terrorist attack)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous levels, plus: 2. Notify staff of high alert status and mandatory increased awareness and security measures. 3. Increase security at dispatch centers 4. Regular check-in with ambulance unit crews in the field. 5. Increased availability of supervisor staff in the field. 6. Develop/activate plan to increase available staff and units should an incident occur. 7. Notify ambulance strike team leaders of increased alert and need for preparedness for possible activation. 8. Activate the EOC command staff and other pertinent ICS positions as determined to meet the situation and status. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All actions in previous levels, plus: 2. Notify staff of high alert status and need for increased awareness. 3. Augment security services within facility. Conduct daily personnel briefings. 4. Reduce non-essential operations. 5. Further restrict public ingress and egress access with increased security screening. Consider facility lock-down condition and procedures, update current procedures. Re-educate security personnel on lock down procedures. 6. Inspect incoming packages, purses, backpacks and other suspicious materials. 7. Consider reschedule/ cancellation of elective surgical procedures. 8. Perform a bed availability status internally and report to the county EOC as requested. 9. Inspect incoming packages, deliveries and other incoming objects and equipment. 10. Increase bioterrorism surveillance by infection control personnel and front-line practitioners (Emergency Department, etc.) and reporting to local public health departments. 11. Develop/activate a plan to increase available staff should an incident occur. 12. Activate Hospital EOC Command Staff and pertinent HEICS/ICS positions as determined to meet the situation and status.

LEVEL EVENT: There is no federal assignment or security level for an actual event. This level was created by EMSA to suggest activities should an event occur within California.

1. All actions in previous levels, plus:
2. Increased measures should be taken according to existing internal emergency management (disaster) plans. (i.e. bomb threat, evacuation).
3. Review sheltering-in-place procedures for employees.
4. Prepare for possible decontamination of victims including inventory of PPE and review of procedures.
5. Provide CISM/CISD services for employees, patients and families to allay fears and anxiety.
6. Notify ambulance strike team leaders of event and prepare for probable activation.
7. EMS provider will coordinate EOC activities with the EMS Agency.

1. All actions in previous levels, plus:
2. Increased measures should be taken according to existing internal emergency management (disaster) plans. (i.e. bomb threat, evacuation)
3. Anticipate and prepare for lockdown of facility upon threat or direction from local law enforcement or EMS Agency.
4. Cease non-essential operational functions and redirect personnel to critical duties/functions.
5. Communicate with local County Emergency Operations Center on situation status and census, hospital capacities.
6. Determine bed availability status internally and report to the county EOC as requested.
7. Prepare for possible decontamination of victims including inventory of PPE, set up of decontamination facilities and review of procedures.
8. Review isolation procedures and ensure the functioning of negative pressure rooms.
9. Engineering to review sheltering-in-place procedures including HVAC shut-off and control.
10. Increase surveillance and response of Infection control personnel for Bioterrorism illnesses.