

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



NEWS

CONTACT: AMY CARRUTH, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
MEMA Newsline

(601) 352-9100
1-800-441-6362

SUBJECT: Homeland Security Advisory

Date: February 7, 2003

(Jackson) – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency urges all citizens to report any suspicious or unusual activity the local law enforcement. Every Mississippian has a critical role to play in the security and safety of our state.

“We have called a meeting of the Mississippi Homeland Security Council to discuss the actions of the raised Homeland Security alert level from yellow to orange,” said Governor Musgrove. “We will continue to work together to ensure the safety of our state and citizens.”

“Citizens continue to be the most important element in keeping our State safe. Informed and alert citizens that report unusual activity in neighborhoods and communities could be the one element that prevents or disrupts future terrorist attacks,” said Robert Latham, director of Homeland Security for Mississippi.

The Current Elevated Condition is Orange. A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

1. Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
2. Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
3. Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
4. Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

MEMA recommends that families decide how each member should act if a disaster occurs. The family should also designate an out-of-state relative or friend as a contact person. That way, each member can check in with the contact person even if they have become separated during the disaster. The family should also discuss what to do if they are asked to evacuate, including what to bring and how to deal with family pets. Older children can also be given tasks, such as locating important items, shutting off utilities or watching out for younger children.

Families can also collect and store basic emergency supplies to ensure their safety and comfort should disruptions occur in transportation, electricity or water supplies occur. For example:



NEWS

-
- *Store three days worth of drinking water and food - especially food that does not need to be cooked, such as dried fruits and nuts, canned goods, peanut butter and crackers. Be sure to have on hand a non-electric can opener. Water can be stored in plastic jugs, such as soft drink bottles. The average person needs two quarts of water per day to drink and two quarts for sanitation. Remember to store water and food for pets as well.*
 - *Have some cash on hand for daily expenditures, but don't hoard large sums of money.*
 - *Have battery-powered flashlights with extra batteries and battery-powered radios. Don't rely on candles for lighting in case of power failure, as they are very dangerous.*
 - *Make sure you have a first aid kit that includes important medications for all members of the family.*
 - *Consider buying a camp stove, small generator or other items that might be useful if utilities were unavailable. Remember to test your generator when you first get it and always run it outdoors.*

###