

For Immediate Release
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Governor Musgrove: Threat Level Being Raised

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has raised the threat level in Mississippi to orange, or high, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Tom Ridge. The decision to raise the threat level was made today after intelligence reports indicated the potential for terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

“We take these reports very seriously, and are prepared to do everything we can to ensure the safety and security of the people of Mississippi,” Musgrove said. “We are working closely with federal officials to make sure we are ready for any scenario.”

The announcement of the change in the threat level was made by Secretary Ridge following a conference call with homeland security officials at the state level. Robert Latham, Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Director of Homeland Security for Mississippi, participated in the call.

“We continue to believe that the citizen is the most critical component of our ability to disrupt or deter acts of terrorism,” said Latham. “Through the Mississippi Homeland Security Council, we will remain in constant contact with all local, state and federal agencies to ensure the dissemination of accurate and timely information.”

Musgrove has called a meeting of the Mississippi Homeland Security Council for Wednesday, May 21, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building. A press availability will held immediately following the meeting.

Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or to the FBI. For more information about protective measures that can be taken, please visit the Mississippi Homeland Security web site at www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov.

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