



Standard Operating Guideline	
SOG Name:	DFD Security/Threat Conditions
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Standard:	TBD
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Authority:	Larry H. Williams, Jr, Fire Chief

PURPOSE: The safety and welfare of all Dothan Fire Department firefighters and employees is imperative there are civil disorder, threats and special circumstances that could impact on-going operations.

A. DFD THREAT CONDITIONS

SECTION 1

Due to recent history, firefighters and EMS providers have been susceptible to work place violence at the fire station and have been attacked in the course of their emergency duties. The events of 9/11 also brought the issue of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This was the five-color coded system that ranged from green (Low Risk) to Red (Severe condition). In April 2011, the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) was implemented. This is a two-level alert system that has a specific date the alert expires. The two levels are:

- Imminent Threat Level—credible, specific, & impending terrorist threat
- Elevated Threat Level—credible terrorist threat

SECTION 2

In order to meet security and preparedness needs, the Dothan Fire Department will utilize a four-level warning system:

- Normal Operations
- Low (Green)
- Yellow(Elevated)
- Red (Severe)

The DFD Threat System can be elevated for local, state or national threats. The fire chief will normally make the determination to which level the DFD will go to based on information received. Any chief officer (including acting) can make immediate determination based on the threat, with follow-up communication to the fire chief and senior staff.

SECTION 3—Low Threat (Green)

Minimum preparedness and appropriate security measures are maintained at all times. Generally applies when there is no NTAS Alert or the Fire Chief determines there is no need to increase awareness. This includes items listed above in regards to station security and may include the following items:

1. Monitor local, state and national terrorism activities as well as communicating with local law enforcement in regards to local criminal activity
2. Maintain routine access control
3. Continue to watch for and report the presence of abandoned parcels, briefcases, etc

4. Secure buildings, rooms, and storage areas not in regular use
5. Immediately report suspicious or abnormal computer or network behavior to appropriate personnel/departments
6. Remind personnel to be suspicious and inquisitive about strangers
7. Secure apparatus and equipment when either unattended or not in use
8. Increase vigilance by all personnel on scene regardless of rank or position
9. Encourage personnel to vary routines and habits
10. Encourage personnel to prepare their families for potential crisis by gathering needed supplies
11. Diversify operational procedures to avoid consistent patterns

SECTION 4—Elevated (Yellow)

Appropriate additional protective security measures will be maintained for the period of time determined by the fire chief and/or senior staff as a result of a heightened risk. This can be the issue of a NTAS, a specific threat or warning from law enforcement or an individual or group makes a threat to the Dothan Fire Department, the City of Dothan or other organizations, facilities, individuals the Fire Chief deems applicable

1. Continue security measures as presented in the Low Threat Category
2. Communicate the elevation of the threat condition to all personnel with in the Dothan fire department and City of Dothan department heads
3. Conduct regularly scheduled meeting/conference calls with LE to review emergency plans, access controls, incident command, force protection, and other issues
4. Screen all visitors
5. Implement a positive visitor identification & accountability system
6. Keep all officers, supervisors, and special team leaders informed of conditions
7. Check communications with LE and other jurisdictions and agencies at least weekly
8. Maintain contact with the LEPC periodically to make decision of what to do, who will do it, to respond to changing conditions/requirements
9. Review plans for and prepare to immediately implement Severe (RED) condition measures
10. Assess and report newly found or changed vulnerabilities
11. Limit the number of access points to facilities
12. Ensure access control (100% ID check) and consider escorting visitors
13. Department members shall have their Department/City of Dothan ID with them during off-duty time
14. Randomly inspect the security and condition of all facilities and HVAC systems
15. Periodically test security systems, back-up power systems and emergency communication systems
16. Keep personnel informed in order to stop rumors and prevent unnecessary alarm
17. Remind staff to maintain their personal and family preparedness “go-kits”
18. Consider placing selected emergency teams on a higher alert status based on the nature of the underlying threat

19. Request LE to periodically survey apparatus/facilities not normally staffed
20. Request LE to restrict access to the immediate area of an incident
21. Vary response routes to avoid regular patterns. Establish the Command Post at different positions. Avoid predictability
22. Prioritize training
23. PIO should issue regular updates to the public
24. Communicate with ambulance services and hospitals
25. Consider alternative parking plan at stations and administration
26. Disperse critical assets to other locations throughout the city
27. Identify a DOC management team and alternative DOC location.
28. Consider staffing the DOC to the appropriate level as determined by the threat
29. Direct agency mail-handlers and mail-deliveries to be more vigilant in handing mail—look for powders, liquids, wires, etc.

SECTION 5—Severe (RED)

The level for specific protective security measures shall be maintained for a limited period of time when a probable, imminent, or a security incident has occurred. A NTAS has been issued by DHS for a specific threat against national, state, local—public or private--agency, facility, or organization. The fire department of City of Dothan has received a specific criminal threat.

1. Implement preparedness measures in Green and Yellow conditions
2. Mobilize and pre-position specially trained teams and/or resources if appropriate
3. Consider requesting the redirection of transportation systems in very close proximity to department critical infrastructures
4. Consider closing non-essential public and government facilities
5. Review staffing levels for appropriateness
6. Contact law enforcement daily, or more frequently if situation warrants, to exchange threat and intelligence information
7. Prepare for short-term housing of employees and families
8. Review and/or modify plans and actions in response to the specific threat information
9. Conduct regular, yet randomly timed inspection tours of facility exterior.
10. Plan for alternative service delivery (electricity, water, gas) means in case of disruption of normal operations
11. Provide added security to fire/EMS facilities as needed: Administration, Comm Center, Alt DOC, ambulance services.
12. All empty stations and facilities are secured
13. Consider releasing non-emergency/non-critical personnel
14. Activate the DOC and placing personnel at the County EOC
15. Notify special teams as necessary
16. All stations and facilities shall be closed to visitors
17. Planned public events/special events will be cancelled or fire department participation will not be provided
18. Alternative staffing may be required (see Severe Weather Plan as an example)

19. Keep public informed that the department is still responding to emergencies as necessary but Adjusting operations
20. Keep all apparatus and staff in quarters except for responses
21. Have LE close access to the area of the incident
22. Activate other pertinent emergency plans
23. Communicate with EMS services and hospitals.

SECTION 6

The fire chief can establish a threat condition and add or take away specific measures from another condition as deemed necessary for the threat condition.

SECTION 7

Elevated (Yellow) and Severe (Red) threat conditions will have specific expiration dates. If the threat condition changes, then the Fire Chief will re-issue the threat information which shall include a new expiration date. This mirrors the NTAS issued by DHS.

Signature on File

Larry H. Williams, Jr.

Fire Chief

DOTHAN FIRE DEPARTMENT