



# SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

*An Informational Guide for Securitas USA Clients and Employees*

Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.

## Introducing the National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security has introduced the National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, to replace the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) that has been in place since 2002. This new system will include information specific to a particular credible threat, and will not use a color-coded scale.

NTAS aims to more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

### NTAS Alerts

Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat.

The alerts will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, including, if available, the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat; protective actions being taken by authorities to ensure public safety; and recommended steps that individuals, communities and businesses can take to protect themselves and their families, and help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.



NTAS alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- **Imminent Threat Alert:** warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.
- **Elevated Threat Alert:** warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States

Release of NTAS alerts will be based on the nature of the threat: in some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly to the American people through both official and media channels.



Much like severe weather watch and warning alerts—which are issued for specific areas and for designated periods of time—NTAS alerts will be issued for a specific time period and then expire. Because NTAS alerts contain this “sunset provision” indicating a specific date when the alert expires, there will not be a constant NTAS alert or blanket warning that there is an overarching threat.

A threat alert may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves. Moreover, if the threat moves from elevated to imminent status or vice versa, the Secretary of Homeland Security may announce an updated NTAS alert. All changes, including the announcement that cancels an NTAS alert, will be distributed in the same way as the original alert.

### Stay Informed, Stay Vigilant

Terrorism information and intelligence is based on the collection, analysis and reporting of a range of sources and methods. While intelligence may indicate that a threat is credible, specific details may not be known. As such, the DHS advises that Americans should continue to stay informed and vigilant throughout the duration of an NTAS alert.

The Department of Homeland Security will announce the NTAS alerts publicly. Alerts will be issued through state, local and tribal partners, and the news media. In addition, DHS will also distribute alerts directly to the public across a number of channels including:

- the official DHS NTAS webpage – [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)
- email signup at – [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)
- social media
  - Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NTASAlerts](http://www.facebook.com/NTASAlerts)
  - Twitter – [www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts](http://www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts)

- data feeds, web widgets and graphics for websites
  - [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)

The public can also expect to see alerts in both public and private places, such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings.

For the complete NTAS Public Guide—which includes a sample NTAS alert (also included here as a third page) and an FAQ section—visit [www.dhs.gov/files/publications/ntas-public-guide.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/ntas-public-guide.shtm).

## Security is a Shared Responsibility

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano stated, “In today’s threat environment – more than ever – we know that our security is a shared responsibility and the best security strategy is one that gets the public involved. That’s why the Department of Homeland Security is focused on strengthening our country’s defenses by getting all stakeholders – including the public – the information and resources they need in order to play their part in helping to secure the country.”

In addition, DHS counts on citizens to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement authorities. The “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign across the United States encourages all Americans to be vigilant for indicators of potential terrorist activity, and to follow NTAS alerts for information about threats in specific places or for individuals exhibiting certain types of suspicious activity.

Visit [www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/see-something-say-something.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/see-something-say-something.shtm) to learn more about the campaign.

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not contain Securitas USA’s complete policy and procedures. For more information, contact your Securitas USA supervisor or account manager.





## SUMMARY

The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an “imminent” or “elevated” threat.

## DURATION

An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

## DETAILS

- This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know.
- It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected.
- It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.

## AFFECTED AREAS

- This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity.
- It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular item, situation, person, activity or developing trend.

## STAY PREPARED

- This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities.
- It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.

## STAY INFORMED

- This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
- It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders.
- It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website <http://www.dhs.gov/alerts> and <http://twitter.com/NTASAlerts>

**If You See Something, Say Something™. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.**