



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

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ARKANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 11-03

To: All Increased Control Licensees

From: Jared Thompson, Program Manager
Radioactive Materials Program 

Date: May 16, 2011

Subject: Notification of new National Terrorism Advisory System

Purpose

The Arkansas Department of Health, Radioactive Materials Program, is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to alert Increased Control licensees that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is replacing the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) with the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS). Under NTAS, DHS will issue alerts for two levels of threat: elevated and imminent. On April 27, 2011, NTAS was finalized and implemented by DHS.

Background

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has previously issued Regulatory Issue Summaries (RIS) to certain categories of licensees (manufacturers and distributors, panoramic irradiators, and licensees shipping Category 1 quantities of radioactive material) to inform them of the measures they should take in the event of alerts under HSAS. These measures will now be taken under the corresponding alerts under NTAS. NRC has not required or recommended that most licensees take particular actions under either HSAS or NTAS. This notice is provided for information on the new NTAS system so that licensees will understand the security status under the alerts and be able to take any actions they consider appropriate.

Discussion

Presidential Policy Directive 7 (PPD-7), which was signed by the President on January 26, 2011, established NTAS, a new, terrorism-focused alert system. NTAS will replace the HSAS concept of color-coded, baseline threat levels with the two-tiered (i.e., “Elevated Threat” and “Imminent Threat” alert levels) threat advisory system designed to provide timely and relevant terrorist threat information to affected government, private sector, and public stakeholders, as appropriate with existing information protection protocols. A description of the new NTAS alert levels is below and more detail is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/ntas-public-guide.shtm>. In general, the NTAS process is designed to permit DHS and its federal partners to quickly and accurately assess threat information and determine whether a change in the threat level is warranted. Such alerts are designed to appropriately notify the public and/or government of specific and credible terrorist threats. The alerts describe either “Imminent” or “Elevated” threats and may recommend certain protective measures be employed. The two alert levels that can be activated by DHS are:

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- Elevated Alert warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States or its territories that is general in both timing and target, or details significant trends and developments in terrorism such that it is reasonable to recommend implementation of protective measures to thwart or mitigate against an attack. This is similar to the previous HSAS “Orange” level.
- Imminent Alert warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat or on-going attack against the U.S. or its territories that is sufficiently time and target-specific and credible so as to recommend implementation of protective measures to thwart or mitigate an attack. This is similar to the previous HSAS “Red” level.

The Department expects that recipients of this Information Notice will review the information provided for applicability to their facilities during normal activities, as well as Elevated and Imminent Threat conditions.

Licensees should report any information regarding threats or suspicious activities to the following organizations:

- local law enforcement agency;
- Arkansas Department of Health at 1-800-633-1735;
- local Federal Bureau of Investigation Field Office/Resident Agent;
- State and local fusion centers; and
- local Federal Aviation Administration, and Air Traffic Control facility/office, if applicable.

This information is provided as a result of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s RCPD-11-004 Notification dated April 28, 2011 and entitled “Notification of New National Terrorism Advisory System.” A copy of this Notification is available for your review upon request.

This IN requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact the Radioactive Materials Program Staff at 501-661-2173.