

**Valdosta State University**  
**U.S. Patriot Act**  
**Campus Homeland Security Policy**

In conjunction with parameters set by National Homeland Security, Valdosta State University is considering actions that we might take to address threat levels. The following policy functions as a guide only, and the same is subject to change as needed. Additional guidelines are available in Valdosta State University's Emergency Response Plan and other policies that are forthcoming. The Office of Public Safety will be responsible for the implementation of specific actions under these guidelines.

**Threat Level Yellow:**

An Elevated Yellow Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. Valdosta State will consider the following general measures in addition to the other protective measures that will be developed and implemented as required.

Measure Y.1

Increase the frequency of warnings and inform the Valdosta State Community of the general situation to stop rumors and prevent unnecessary alarm. Periodically update all members of the Valdosta State Community as the situation changes.

Measure Y.2

At the beginning and end of each workday and at frequent intervals, inspect the interior and exterior of buildings in regular use for suspicious activity, packages, or for signs of tampering or indications of unauthorized entry.

Measure Y.3

Implement reasonable screening procedures for incoming deliveries, packages, and mail to identify possible dangerous devices or materials. If appropriate, implement reasonable screening procedures and other actions for computing and networking.

Measure Y.4

Verify the identity of all personnel entering sensitive state facilities (inspect identification cards or grant access based on visual recognition).

Measure Y.5

Increase liaison with local public safety agencies and request assistance with monitoring the threat to state personnel and facilities.

Measure Y.6

Test each facility warning system. Insure that all elements of each facility evacuation plan are in place and remind the Valdosta State Community of actions to be taken if an order to evacuate is issued.

#### Measure Y.7

Implement measures to ensure the safety and containment of selected agents as defined by appropriate federal agencies. "Containment" refers to safe procedures for handling biohazardous material so that such materials do not pose a hazard to people and/or the environment. Primary containment focuses on protecting workers in the immediate area; whereas, secondary containment deals with protection of the environment and the people outside the immediate area. Containment is accomplished through: (1) the use of appropriate procedures (2) the use of safety equipment, and (3) conducting work in an appropriately designed facility.

#### **Threat Level Orange:**

An Orange Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the protective measures taken in the previous threat conditions, Valdosta State University will consider and might implement some or all of the following general measures in addition to the department-specific protective measures that they will develop and implement:

#### Measure O.1

Call in or retain all personnel responsible for implementing facility specific emergency action or evacuation plans. If appropriate, dismiss and evacuate non-essential personnel. If appropriate, initiate emergency action or evacuation plans for facilities specifically targeted in order to protect personnel and members of the Valdosta State Community.

#### Measure O.2

If appropriate, reduce facility access points to the absolute minimum necessary for continued operation. If appropriate, erect barriers required to control direction of traffic flow and to protect facilities vulnerable to bomb attack by parked or moving vehicles. If appropriate, eliminate parking and traffic on facility grounds near sensitive areas. If appropriate, position barricades or vehicles, as a second layer of protection, to prevent entry into these areas. Eliminate non-essential public access to grounds and buildings. If appropriate, cancel or reschedule events, meetings, or classes pursuant to the authority of the Board of Regents policy.

#### Measure O.3

Increase security activity to the maximum level sustainable. If appropriate, consult local authorities about closing public roads and local facilities that might make state facilities more vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

#### Measure O.4

If appropriate, parking may be restricted.

#### **Threat Level Red:**

A Red Condition is declared when there is an imminent risk of terrorist attacks. The VSU Homeland Security Committee has identified the following possible response actions that could be pursued during emergencies under a Red Threat Level. These include the following:

#### Measure R.1

Sheltering Personnel could mean housing and/or protection of personnel in a secured environment.

#### Measure R.2

Evacuation: The order to leave campus because of imminent danger. In such cases, only essential personnel needed for protection and preservation of essential services would remain.

#### Measure R.3

Partial Operation: It may be determined as a result of a threat that only certain functions will take place on campus.

#### Measure R.4

Continued Operation could result when there are actions or activities in other parts of the country that pose a threat to similar operations. In addition to the protective measures taken in the previous threat conditions, Valdosta State shall consider the following general measures in addition to the department-specific protective measures that they will develop and implement:

#### Measure R.5

Establish absolute control over access to key state facilities. Limit facility access to those persons with a legitimate and verifiable need to enter. Close and evacuate non-essential state facilities. For essential facilities that will remain open, evacuate non-essential personnel. If not already instituted under Threat Level Orange, consult local authorities about closing public roads and local facilities that might make sensitive state facilities more vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

#### Measure R.6

Identify the owners of all vehicles already parked at state facilities. In those cases where the owner or presence of a vehicle cannot be explained (owner is not present and has no obvious agency affiliation), inspect the vehicle for dangerous items and take steps to remove the vehicle from the vicinity. Screen all vehicles entering sensitive facilities. Inspections should include cargo storage areas, undercarriage, glove boxes and other areas where explosive or incendiary devices or other dangerous items could be concealed. Briefcases, suit cases, boxes and other containers in vehicles should also be inspected. Inspect all packages, mail, and other containers such as suitcases, packages, and briefcases brought to the facility for the presence of explosive or incendiary devices, or other dangerous items. If reasonable, suspend all deliveries and prohibit packages, bags, and other containers from being brought into state facilities.

#### Measure R.7

Establish a mechanism to periodically re-check all Threat Level provisions (Threat Level Green through Red) to insure that specified measures have been implemented and that they are sustainable.

#### Measure R.8

**CAMPUS CLOSED STATUS**

**IF THERE IS A DIRECT THREAT TO ANY VSU BUILDING OR THE CAMPUS IS**

DECLARED "CLOSED", A SIGN OR SIGNS WILL BE PLACED IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS SO INDICATING.