Since the day our nation went from yellow to Orange level alert I have received many phone calls and e-mails. Most questions are concerning two things. What does the higher level of alert mean to me at MSU and What does the higher level of alert mean to me at home. So I’ll try to share information on both.

Homeland Security Advisory System:

**High Condition (Orange).** A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
- Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
- Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
- Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

**THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN:**

Our University Emergency Action Plan is Tried, Tested and True. With the elevated level of Orange there is really no additional preparation or additions to the plan. We need to simply “Be Prepared”. Our course of action in an emergency is still going to be either evacuate or go to in place sheltering. We must always be prepared for the unexpected, such as an announced change in our rally site or special locations for in place sheltering. That means we have to be able to communicate quickly and effectively with in our building’s emergency teams. My suggestion is for you as a building emergency team leader to:

1. Review your emergency action team phone tree for correct names and numbers
2. Conduct a phone tree drill *
3. Review your results
4. If needed hold an emergency action team meeting to review the plan, as well as to update and retrain all coordinators. I am willing and available to attend and assist in those meetings if you want. Just contact me to schedule.
5. Make Plans for a full evacuation drill this spring.

* For assistance in planning an emergency phone tree drill contact Dan Caulkett:
WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE DO AT HOME?

1. **Have a Plan:** First and foremost have a plan. The Emergency Action Plan as you know has a Rally site for your building in the event of an evacuation. At home you should choose two places to meet, one near your home and another outside of your neighborhood. The American Red Cross Disaster plans also suggest that you establish two phone contacts, one in your town and another out of state. These contacts can be sources for relaying messages to either your immediate family or to other relative and friends who want information about your family’s wellbeing.

2. **A Disaster Kit:** It’s also good to establish a disaster kit for you home and car. At home it is suggested to store at least three days’ worth of water per person, some canned and non-perishable food, needed medication, flashlights, battery operated radio, non-electric can opener, needed tools, copies of important family documents, and some plastic sheeting and duct tape. The American Red Cross has some suggested kits in details on their web site: [http://www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/) Go to the section Terrorism – Preparing for the Unexpected and then find the 3. Assemble a disaster supplies kit and follow the link to Family Disaster Supply Kit.

3. **If a disaster occurs** stay informed through local media and follows their directions. If you have school aged children, know what their school plans are. In some emergencies your child’s school may have a lock down or in place sheltering. And they may be safest to remain there until the immediate crisis has passed. For example, a tornado warning, it would be safer not to attempt to pick them up during the storm.

4. Don’t forget to plan for the safety of others. Look in on neighbors who are elderly or have disabilities. Also be sure to plan for your pet’s safety as well.

5. **Family Meetings and Drills:** Make sure everyone in the family knows the plan. Review your two rally locations and both local and out-of-state contact numbers. It’s also suggested that with younger children at home, that you have at least one fire drill each year that includes going to the neighborhood rally location.