

## Homeland Security Alert

On February 7, President Bush raised the Homeland Security threat level to “high risk” (orange). Yesterday, the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) issued an advisory to heighten the awareness of an increase in global hacking activities as a result of the increasing tensions between the United States and Iraq. As a result of these advisories, N.G.A. is taking this opportunity to urge retail and wholesale grocers to review your food and operations security measures.

While no threats on targets have been announced that mention the food industry, review and precautions are in order. In reaction to the announced “high risk” advisory, consumers have also been taking precautionary measures by stocking up on food, water, batteries, and other preparedness supplies, especially in urban markets like New York City and Washington, D.C.

### Steps to Take:

1. Review your food security measures, you can refer to the N.G.A. website for FDA Industry Guidance for Security Preventive Measures, as well as Store Security and Threat Vulnerability Guidelines at [www.nationalgrocers.org](http://www.nationalgrocers.org).

2. Respond to consumer needs, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the Red Cross have been advising consumers to maintain supplies of food, water, canned foods, first-aid kits, etc. To view the list of recommended products or offer this information to consumers you may go FEMA at: [www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/supplies.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/supplies.pdf), or to the American Red Cross at: [www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/supplies.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/supplies.html).

3. Review and monitor computer systems by increasing user awareness, updating anti-virus software, stopping suspicious e-mail attachments (watch for patriotic or otherwise catchy titles), and utilizing filters to maximize security. For computer security checklists, refer to [www.cert.org/security-improvement](http://www.cert.org/security-improvement).

4. In the event of suspicious activities, you are encouraged to report the information to your local FBI/Joint Terrorism Task Force office: <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm>, NIPC, or other appropriate authorities. The NIPC Watch and Warning Unit can be reached at 202-323-3205, toll free at 888-585-9078, or by email to: [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov).

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact N.G.A. Public Affairs Department at 703-516-0700 or [publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org).

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If you have questions or need additional information, contact Tom Wenning at [publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nationalgrocers.org).

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