

Surface Transportation Security Awareness Message

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Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement—Surface Division

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO) ATTENTION—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDERS

(U) On March 22, 2016, at approximately 3:00 a.m. Eastern Time, two explosions occurred at Brussels' Zaventem Airport near the departure area accessible to the general public outside of the secured area of the terminal. Initial reports indicate there were 10 people killed and 100 injured at the airport. Approximately an hour later, at least one explosion occurred at Maalbeek Metro station in Brussels, where there were at least 20 fatalities and more than 130 injured. The emergency response in Brussels is ongoing and casualty figures are likely to change. News media are reporting that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

(U//FOUO) At this time, the TSA Office of Intelligence and Analysis (TSA-OIA) has no information to suggest that yesterday's overseas attacks are connected to any aspirational or imminent plots within the United States. The alert level in the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) (http://www.dhs.gov/alerts) has not changed and the NTAS Bulletin issued on December 16, 2015, remains in effect.

(U//FOUO) The Brussels incidents underscore the vulnerability of soft targets—such as transportation venues—where large crowds gather. Terrorists worldwide frequently use small arms and improvised explosive devices because they are relatively inexpensive, concealable, and highly effective. The global threat environment is evolving and terrorist groups such as ISIL are actively recruiting followers using social media. Self-radicalized homegrown violent extremists can be difficult to detect and may attack with little or no warning.

- (U) TSA encourages transportation operators to continue their security training programs for their employees and public awareness campaigns for their customers. Transportation system employees are encouraged to be observant and report suspicious incidents in accordance with their employer's security plan. Persons whose behavior does not fit their circumstances or surroundings should be brought to the attention of law enforcement—"If you see something, say something."
- (U) TSA will continue its efforts to provide timely information to stakeholders. In addition, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to reach out to their peers to share best practices for security risk reduction activities. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our nation's transportation systems secure.

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