



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

TERRY F. WHITE
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: All AAA Directors
All AAA Emergency Coordinating Officers

NOTICE#: 032403-1-I-DP

FROM: Terry White
Secretary

DATE: March 21, 2003

SUBJECT: Notice of Instruction: Disaster Preparedness

While the majority of Florida's elder population is independent, our network serves those who are more frail and homebound. Our clients are less likely to respond immediately to a disaster situation. We feel it prudent to be prepared – by informing frail elders of potential attacks and sharing with them the necessary steps they need to take.

Although there is no specific threat to Florida, the risk of attack scale, issued by the Homeland Security Advisory System, currently stands at Level Orange (High Risk), the second highest level. As military action occurs in Iraq, the Department of Elder Affairs would like area agencies on aging to provide information to local service providers and clients about how to prepare for the unlikely event of a terrorist attack on our state.

Again, while there is no specific threat to Florida and we do not want to instill fear, the best defense against terrorism is to be prepared. It is important for our clients to be aware while continuing with their daily activities. Case managers and/or local service providers should be encouraged to contact all clients – especially clients who do not live with or have a caregiver, and provide information about the necessary steps to take in case of a terrorist attack in Florida along with the case manager's name and phone number.

Provided with this Notice of Instruction are documents that we ask be disseminated to your service providers and clients. Also, if available, we ask that you share with your clients last year's 2002 Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gwen Wall, Emergency Coordinating Officer for the Department of Elder Affairs, at (850) 414-2064 or wallg@elderaffairs.org.

4040 ESPLANADE WAY
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA, 32399-7000

phone 850.414.2000
fax 850.414.2004
TDD 850.414.2001

<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>