

## Examples of Defining Terms in Risk Analysis

### CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL - CDC NOTICE LEVEL DEFINITIONS (05 APRIL 2013)

Notice Level	Traveler Action	Risk to Traveler	Outbreak/Event Example
<b>Level 1: Watch</b>	Reminder to follow <b>usual</b> precautions for this destination	Usual baseline risk or slightly above baseline risk for destination and limited impact to the traveler	<p><b>Dengue in Panama-Outbreak Watch:</b> Because dengue is endemic to Panama, this notice most likely would signify that there is a slightly higher rate of dengue cases than predicted. Travelers are to follow "usual" insect precautions.</p> <p><b>Olympics in London-Event Watch:</b> There may be possible health conditions in London that could impact travelers during the Olympics, such as measles. Travelers are to follow usual health precautions making sure they are up to date on their measles vaccine, follow traffic safety laws and use sunscreen</p>
<b>Level 2: Alert</b>	Follow <b>enhanced</b> precautions for this destination	Increased risk in defined settings or associated with specific risk factors	<p><b>Yellow Fever in Brazil-Outbreak Alert:</b> Because an outbreak of yellow fever was found in areas of Brazil outside of the reported yellow fever risk areas, this would be a change in "usual" precautions. Travelers should follow "enhanced precautions" for that risk area by receiving the yellow fever vaccine.</p> <p><b>Flooding in El Salvador-Event Alert:</b> There are possible conditions that could affect the health of the traveler and parts of the destination's infrastructure could be compromised. Travelers are to follow special precautions for flooding</p>
<b>Level 3: Warning</b>	Avoid all non-essential travel to this destination	High risk to travelers	<p><b>SARS in Asia-Outbreak Warning:</b> Because SARS spread quickly and had a high case fatality rate, a warning notice signifies there was a high chance a traveler could be infected. Travelers should not travel if possible.</p> <p><b>Earthquake in Haiti-Event Warning:</b> The destination's infrastructure (sanitation, transportation, etc.) cannot support travelers at this time.</p>

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ([HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV](http://travel.state.gov))

We issue **Travel Alerts** for short-term events we think you should know about when planning travel to a country. Examples of reasons for issuing a Travel Alert might include an election season that is bound to have many strikes, demonstrations, disturbances; a health alert like an outbreak of H1N1; or evidence of an elevated risk of terrorist attacks. When these short-term events are over, we cancel the Travel Alert.

**Travel Alerts** are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, either transnational or within a particular country, that pose significant risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international

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conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert.

We issue a **Travel Warning** when we want you to consider very carefully whether you should go to a country at all. Examples of reasons for issuing a Travel Warning might include unstable government, civil war, or ongoing intense crime or violence, or frequent terrorist attacks. We want you to know the risks of traveling to these places and to strongly consider not going to them at all. Travel Warnings remain in place until the situation changes; some have been in effect for years.

**Travel Warnings** are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. **The countries listed below meet those criteria.**

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ([HTTP://TRAVEL.GC.CA/TRAVELLING/ADVISORIES](http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories))

### What do the four risk levels mean?

Each Country Travel Advice and Advisories page contains a graph indicating the country's overall level of security risk. There may be more than one graph if the risk level differs in a specific region. The four risk levels are as follows:

#### **Exercise normal security precautions**

*There are no significant security concerns.*

#### **Exercise a high degree of caution**

*There are identifiable security concerns; travellers should be alert and vigilant to their surroundings*

The following two levels constitute official Government of Canada Travel Advisories:

#### **AVOID NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL**

*There are specific security concerns; travellers should reconsider their need to travel at this time.*

#### **AVOID ALL TRAVEL**

*There is an extreme risk to personal safety; Canadians should not travel at this time.*

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## **What are Travel Advisories?**

Travel Advisories appear in the Country Travel Advice and Advisories page of countries where the security of Canadians may be compromised. They provide the Government of Canada's official advice regarding travel to a specific country or region. A Travel Advisory either recommends that Canadians avoid "all travel" or "non-essential travel" to a country or region and, in some cases, that they leave that country or region.

## **How do you determine the risk level of a country or region?**

The risk level is based on an overall assessment of the current security situation in a country or region. However, this assessment is not exhaustive.

## **When does the Government of Canada issue a Travel Advisory?**

There are many events that can necessitate an official Travel Advisory, including the threat of terrorism, civil unrest, war, rebellion, a natural disaster, political instability, and health emergencies.

## **How often are Travel Advisories revised?**

The Government of Canada closely monitors safety and security conditions abroad, particularly in countries for which Travel Advisories have been issued. As new information becomes available, the level of risk is reassessed, and a Travel Advisory may be issued, upgraded or downgraded.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ([HTTP://WWW.SMARTTRAVELLER.GOV.AU](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au))**

## **What information is used to prepare travel advisories?**

We use a range of information sources, including:

- assessments from Australian missions overseas about local security conditions
- our experience of the common or recurring consular problems Australians experience overseas
- intelligence reports, and in particular threat assessments by the National Threat Assessment Centre
- Advisories prepared by our consular partners (United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada). The information provided in our advisories may be different to our partners as we focus on topics that may affect Australian travellers.

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- When necessary, we liaise with other Government departments and agencies to ensure that the information we provide is as accurate and useful as possible for Australian travellers.

### **How do we grade our advisories?**

Travel advisories are graded across four different levels. The level we give a specific country reflects our overall assessment of the security situation in the destination and is designed to help you assess the level of risk you would face in that country.

In determining the level of a destination we consider the security risks and compare these to the general security threats in a large Australian city, but there is no strict formula. We also take into account the capacity of a foreign government to deal with the risks.

### **Level 1 – Exercise normal safety precautions**

Exercise common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia.

### **Level 2 – Exercise a high degree of caution**

Pay close attention to your personal security at all times and monitor the media about possible new safety or security risks.

### **Level 3 – Reconsider your need to travel**

There is a high level of risk in the country/area. This may be due to a very high threat of terrorist attack or a volatile and unpredictable security situation. If you are already in a destination where we advise you to "reconsider your need to travel" and you are concerned about the security situation, you should consider leaving.

### **Level 4 – Do not travel**

The security situation is extremely dangerous. This may be due to a very high threat of terrorist attack, widespread armed conflict and or dangerous levels of violent crime. If you are already in a destination where we advise that you "do not travel" you should consider leaving unless you have compelling reasons to stay.

Each travel advisory is graded against the levels outlined above; this is shown in a continuum bar at the top of each travel advice page. Some advisories show more than one level, this may occur when the overall country is at a certain level, but different regions within the country are assessed to be at higher or lower levels due to particular risks or safety concerns.

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### How current is the information?

The information provided in our travel advisories is kept under constant review. Every travel advisory is reissued on a quarterly basis, but if developments in a specific country require more frequent updates, these will be reflected in the relevant travel advisory.

Our Consular Emergency Centre (which operates 24-hours a day) and our network of missions overseas provide us with regular updates of security and related developments around the world. Travel advisories are updated promptly in response to these developments. We encourage Australians to not only read travel advisories before they leave, but also to [subscribe to our email notification service](#).

Travel advice is not updated simply to reflect the fact that a security incident overseas has occurred. We are not a news service that reports on all incidents. The travel advice may contain examples of security incidents from the recent past but these serve as an example of the sorts of threats mentioned in the advice. When security incidents occur overseas, we assess the risk to Australians travellers - if the level of risk has not changed, the travel advice will not be changed.

### United Kingdom

Could not identify any specific definitions on their website, website under redesign.

Interesting article on the topic:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/mar/23/fco-travel-advice-map>

### NEW ZEALAND (<http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>)

#### What do our travel advisories mean?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides advice on security risks in several destinations. This advice is based on information from a number of sources. It reflects risks, and our assessment of what these might mean for New Zealanders. Our assessment may also take account of the actions local authorities are taking to minimise the risk, and our ability to provide you with assistance.

The advice is designed to assist you to make informed decisions about travel destinations. We cannot tell you what to do. But your travel insurance may be affected by the issuing of a strong travel warning (especially if we advise against all travel to a destination). It is recommended that, before setting out, you contact your travel insurer to check whether or

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not you will be covered by your insurance policy if you are travelling to a destination featured in our **high risk** or **extreme risk** categories. Insurance cover can differ from company to company.

We do not provide advice on all destinations. We focus on those about which we have reliable information on security risks that may affect New Zealanders. You may also wish to consult the advice of other governments, but be aware that their advice is designed for their citizens.

### **We have a three-level system:**

#### **Extreme risk** – We advise against all travel.

This advice usually applies to areas where there is conflict, warfare or civil disturbance. New Zealanders in or planning to go to these areas should be aware of the limits on official assistance that can be provided there. The Government may not be able to assist you if you are detained, injured, or otherwise prevented from leaving these areas. There may be little warning of airport closures, cancellation of air services or closure of airspace to civilian air traffic.

#### **High risk** – Non-essential travel, including tourist travel, should be deferred

High risk means we may have specific indication/s of possible location, timing or place of threatened action from sources that may be regarded as reliable. (The Ministry does not disclose the detailed information which may be behind such assessments.)

#### **Some risk** – Signifies a level of risk that warrants caution

“Some risk” means there is a heightened but still generalised threat of terrorism. Travellers should be especially alert and vigilant. Sensible precautions include avoiding large gathering places such as shopping malls and public events. In non-Western destinations places identified with Western interests such as bars, nightclubs, and commercial premises with a strong Western identity should be avoided if possible.