

# **MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN**

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## **INCREASED VIGILANCE RECOMMENDED FOR OFFSHORE PLATFORMS**

Due to the current Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advisory that raised the national threat level to a High risk of terrorist attack, owners and operators of manned or unmanned offshore platforms, plus vessels and aircraft regularly operating in their vicinities, should be vigilant for possible terrorist activity. This bulletin alerts readers to the potential of the use of offshore platforms, especially unmanned platforms, as staging points for terrorist operations. Offshore stakeholders should be especially alert and report any suspicious activities observed near any offshore platforms to the Coast Guard.

### **DETAILS**

At best, unmanned platforms are subject to sporadic, infrequent visits by the responsible party. Given this, unauthorized persons could easily board an offshore platform by sea or air, then use it as a stage for operations. Increased vigilance and an active presence in these areas will have a major positive deterrent effect on any possible planned operation.

### **MARITIME PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Some recommended protective measures include:

- Increase frequency of visits to unmanned facilities
- Conduct overflights of unmanned facilities in conjunction with normally scheduled helicopter transfers of equipment and personnel
- Look for signs of unauthorized activity or intrusion on your platforms
- Report vessels remaining in the vicinity of a particular facility for extended periods of time or exhibiting signs of conducting surveillance activities
- Look for suspicious equipment or persons, especially on upper open decks and helo pads

In any case where suspicious or criminal activity is suspected, all recipients of this bulletin should report the information to the Coast Guard. This can be done by contacting the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, or locally to the Marine Safety Office New Orleans at (504) 589-6261.