



# PHYSICAL THREATS

## Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) National Terrorism Advisory



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Jan 28, 2021

On January 27, 2021 the acting Secretary of Homeland Security issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) due to a heightened threat environment across the United States, which DHS believes will persist in the weeks following the successful Presidential Inauguration. Information suggests that some ideologically motivated violent extremists with objections to the exercise of governmental authority and the presidential transition, as well as other perceived grievances fueled by false narratives, could continue to mobilize to incite or commit violence.

Throughout 2020, Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) targeted individuals with opposing views engaged in First Amendment-protected, non-violent protest activity. Extremists motivated by a range of issues, including anger over

COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 election results, and police use of force have plotted and periodically carried out attacks against government facilities. Long-standing racial and ethnic tension, including opposition to immigration, has driven DVE attacks, including a [2019 shooting in El Paso, Texas](#) that killed 23 people and injured 23 others.

DHS is concerned these same drivers to violence will remain through early 2021 and some DVEs may be emboldened by the January 6, 2021 breach of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. to target elected officials and government facilities. DHS remains concerned that Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) inspired by foreign terrorist groups, who committed three attacks targeting government officials in 2020, remain a threat. Threats of violence against critical infrastructure, including the electric, telecommunications and healthcare sectors, increased in 2020 with violent extremists citing misinformation and conspiracy theories about COVID-19 for their actions.

The Department of Homeland Security, as well as other Federal agencies and law enforcement partners will continue to take precautions to protect people and infrastructure across the United States. DHS remains committed to preventing violence and threats meant to intimidate or coerce specific populations on the basis of their religion, race, ethnicity, identity or political views. State, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security partners are encouraged to continue prioritizing physical security measures, particularly around government facilities, to protect people and critical infrastructure.

The public is encouraged to report suspicious activity and threats of violence, including online activity, to local law enforcement, FBI field offices, or their local fusion center. As safety is paramount, the avoidance of large crowds, including protests, is safest due to ongoing pandemic conditions. Those participating in protests are urged to do so peacefully, safely, and wear masks. It is important to stay informed as local, state and federal agencies will provide specific information about emerging threats as additional information is identified. In addition to guidance provided in CISA's hometown security [resources](#), the general public is encouraged to be cognizant of both their surroundings and personal safety.

**Reference(s)**

[cisa](#), [DHS](#), [Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices](#), [wikipedia](#)

**Report Source(s)**

Government Agency

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