

**MEMO# 17856**

August 3, 2004

## **THREAT LEVEL INCREASED TO ORANGE FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES IN SPECIFIC AREAS**

[17856] August 3, 2004 TO: PRIMARY CONTACTS - MEMBER COMPLEX No. 74-04 BOARD OF GOVERNORS No. 50-04 CEOS TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE No. 20-04 BCP SUBCOMMITTEE SMALL FUNDS COMMITTEE No. 43-04 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE No. 15-04 SEC RULES COMMITTEE No. 67-04 RE: THREAT LEVEL INCREASED TO ORANGE FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES IN SPECIFIC AREAS As you are aware from recent and continuing news accounts, on Sunday the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) raised the threat alert level from yellow (elevated) to orange (high) for the financial services sector in New York City, Northern New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Attached is a joint DHS and FBI Advisory which provides steps to consider to protect your organization. The Institute participated in a conference call late yesterday afternoon of the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC) for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security to discuss the current situation and additional protective measures organizations may wish to consider. The FSSCC, organized in 2002 with sponsorship and support from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, consists of 28 financial services associations, utilities, exchanges and clearinghouses. Its purpose is to facilitate voluntary activities to improve critical infrastructure protection and homeland security within the financial services sector. The FSSCC is in frequent and regular contact with DHS. The Institute is an FSSCC member. During the call, it was noted that DHS has indicated that this particular terrorist threat most likely involves a vehicle as the delivery mechanism for an explosive device. Additionally, DHS indicated that there is no apparent evidence to suggest that the explosive device is of a chemical or biological nature. DHS further advised that financial organizations located in close proximity to the named targets in the three geographical locations could become alternate targets as primary targets are "hardened". It was noted during the call that tenants in multi-tenant buildings, above or adjacent to parking facilities they do not control, are encouraged to take precautionary steps to secure those parking facilities. In addition, tenants may wish to determine whether blueprints of their building have been posted to web sites and, if so, to seek to have them removed. We will continue to participate in FSSCC calls and forward to you any information that may be helpful with respect to terrorist threats against the financial services sector. If you or members of your organization have questions please contact Don Boteler (202- 326-5845) or Peter Salmon (202-326-5869) at the Institute. Lawrence R. Maffia Executive Vice President & COO Attachment (in .pdf format) Note: Not all recipients receive the attachment. To obtain a copy of the attachment, please visit our members website (<http://members.ici.org>) and search for memo 17856, or call the ICI Library at (202) 326-8304 and request the attachment for memo 17856.

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