



# SAFETY DIRECTOR MESSAGE



## 2024 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT

On September 15, 2023, [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) announced the release](#) of the [2024 Homeland Threat Assessment \(HTA\)](#). The HTA outlines current and emerging threats facing the country. The 2024 elections are a key event for possible violence, foreign influence, and cyber-attacks targeting the election process and infrastructure. China, Russia, and Iran were all named as likely sources using new technologies and cyber tools to create high-quality influence campaigns to disrupt, undermine election confidence, and feed conspiracy theories. Other significant warnings include:

### Public Safety & Security

Terrorism, both foreign and domestic, remains a top threat to the Homeland. During the next year, the DHS assesses that the threat of violence from individuals radicalized in the United States will remain high, marked by lone offenders or small group attacks that occur with little warning. These incidents focus on a variety of targets, including law enforcement, government, faith-based organizations, retail locations, ethnic and religious minorities, healthcare infrastructure, transportation, and the energy sector. Foreign terrorist groups like al-Qa'ida and ISIS are seeking to rebuild networks of supporters that could seek to target the Homeland.

In addition to the terrorism threat, the DHS expects illegal drugs produced in Mexico and sold in the United States will continue to kill more Americans than any other threat. US-based traffickers have become more involved in the mixing and pressing of fentanyl, contributing to more lethal mixes of this drug. Traffickers are also bulking fentanyl powder and pills with the animal sedative xylazine ("Tranq"), challenging standard opioid overdose treatments.

### Critical Infrastructure

Domestic and foreign adversaries will likely continue to target critical infrastructure over the next year. While cyber-attacks seeking to compromise networks or disrupt services are expected to continue, the DHS noted an uptick in physical attacks on critical infrastructure over the last year.

In addition to targeting US critical infrastructure for destructive and disruptive attacks, adversaries continue to use cyber and physical espionage tactics to access and steal sensitive information from US critical infrastructure networks. Such information enables pre-positioning for future attacks, gaining insight into our attack response capabilities.

### Climate Change & Natural Disasters

Climate-related disasters, such as heat waves, droughts, wildfires, coastal storms, and inland flooding, can potentially disrupt regional economies, foster health crises like disease outbreaks, and tax law enforcement resources.

All agency stakeholders should take the time and to read the full report, [2024 Homeland Threat Assessment \(HTA\)](#).