



THREAT CHECKLIST

Organizations, their leadership, and security staff can conduct a quick assessment of communicated threats to understand their urgency and determine immediate actions.

Type of Threat

Direct Threat: Identifies a specific act against a specific target (person/facility) and is delivered in a straightforward, clear, and explicit manner: “I am going to hurt, or assault, _____.” Or “I am going to damage, _____.”

Action – Call 9-1-1

Conditional Threat: Warns that a violent act will happen unless certain demands or terms are met: “If you don’t give me what I want, I will blow up your building.”

Action – Call 9-1-1

Veiled Threat: Strongly implies but does not explicitly threaten violence. “He is going to pay for this” clearly hints at a possible violent act but leaves it to the potential victim to interpret the message and give a definite meaning.

Action – Call 9-1-1

Levels of Threat

HIGH LEVEL

[Direct Threat] A threat that appears to pose an imminent and serious danger to the safety of others.

“At eight o’clock tomorrow morning, I intend to shoot the principal. That’s when he is in the office by himself. I have a 9mm. Believe me, I know what I am doing. I am sick and tired of the way he runs this school.”

- ☐ Direct, specific and plausible
- ☐ Threat suggests concrete steps have been taken toward carrying it out, for example, statements indicating that the threatener has acquired or practiced with a weapon or has had the victim under surveillance.

MEDIUM LEVEL

[Conditional Threat] A threat that could be carried out, although it may not appear entirely realistic.

“If you don’t pay me one million dollars, I will blow up your building.”

- ☐ Threat is more direct and more concrete than a low-level threat
- ☐ Wording suggests person has given some thought to how the act will be carried out.
- ☐ General indication of a possible place and time (but not a detailed plan)
- ☐ Strong indication the person has taken preparatory steps; veiled reference or ambiguous evidence pointing to that possibility, e.g. - an allusion to a movie that shows the planning of a violent act, or a vague, statement about the availability of weapons.

LOW LEVEL

[Veiled Threat] A threat that poses minimal risk to persons or property.

“We would be better off without Jews around anymore and someone should get you.”

- ☐ Threat is vague and indirect
- ☐ Information within the threat is inconsistent, implausible or lacks detail
- ☐ Threat lacks realism – the person is unlikely to have the means to carry out the threat
- ☐ Content suggests person is unlikely to carry it out

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In some cases, the distinction between the levels of threat may not be as obvious, and there will be overlap between the categories. Generally, obtaining additional information about either the threat or the threatener will help in clarifying any confusion. What is important is that individuals are able to recognize, report, and act on threats, and management addresses all threats appropriately and in a timely manner.

To report a threatening or suspicious call, notify SCN only after law enforcement and/or local reporting authority.

**Contact SCN Duty Desk at 844.SCN.DESK
or email dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org**