

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: March 20, 2003
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Michigan City Mayor Sheila Brillson issued the following statement with respect to the City's local response to national terrorist threats:

"With our nation at war, I must reassure the general public that the City's Emergency Response leaders have been trained and are prepared to respond to situations that may arise.

City Team members have a longstanding record of cooperation and collaboration with emergency response officials from throughout LaPorte County to ensure a unified county response to any situation. These efforts have been redoubled over the past several weeks as war has become imminent."

"The LaPorte County Community Alliance is continually monitoring threat level warnings that are issued from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, we have in place secure communication networks able to receive notifications of any specific threats aimed at our specific region," stated John Jones, Emergency Management Director.

Chief Gene Simmons stated, "Our local Emergency Response officials are trained professionals and I remain confident that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the general public can carry on with their normal routines during these difficult times. Any changes in threat levels to our specific region will result in the appropriate measured response by our trained professionals. Their responses will include instructive communications to our citizens."

Mayor Brillson continued, "The Michigan City Area School Corporation has issued a letter of explanation regarding their on-going planning and preparation efforts, including "sheltering in place". As a community, the safety of our children is paramount and our most highly trained Emergency Management Professionals will assist and instruct school officials on how to maintain student safety on a case-by-case basis, should it ever become necessary.

As citizens, our responsibility remains clear: be ever vigilant in our community and remain calm and reassuring towards our children to help them feel safe."

Additional information can be found on the Federal emergency Management's website at www.ready.gov or at the Michigan City website, www.emichigancity.com under the Emergency Management Agency web page

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Gillson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the beginning of the first name and a similar loop at the end of the last name.