

WHAT IS VIGIPIRATE?

DESCRIPTION

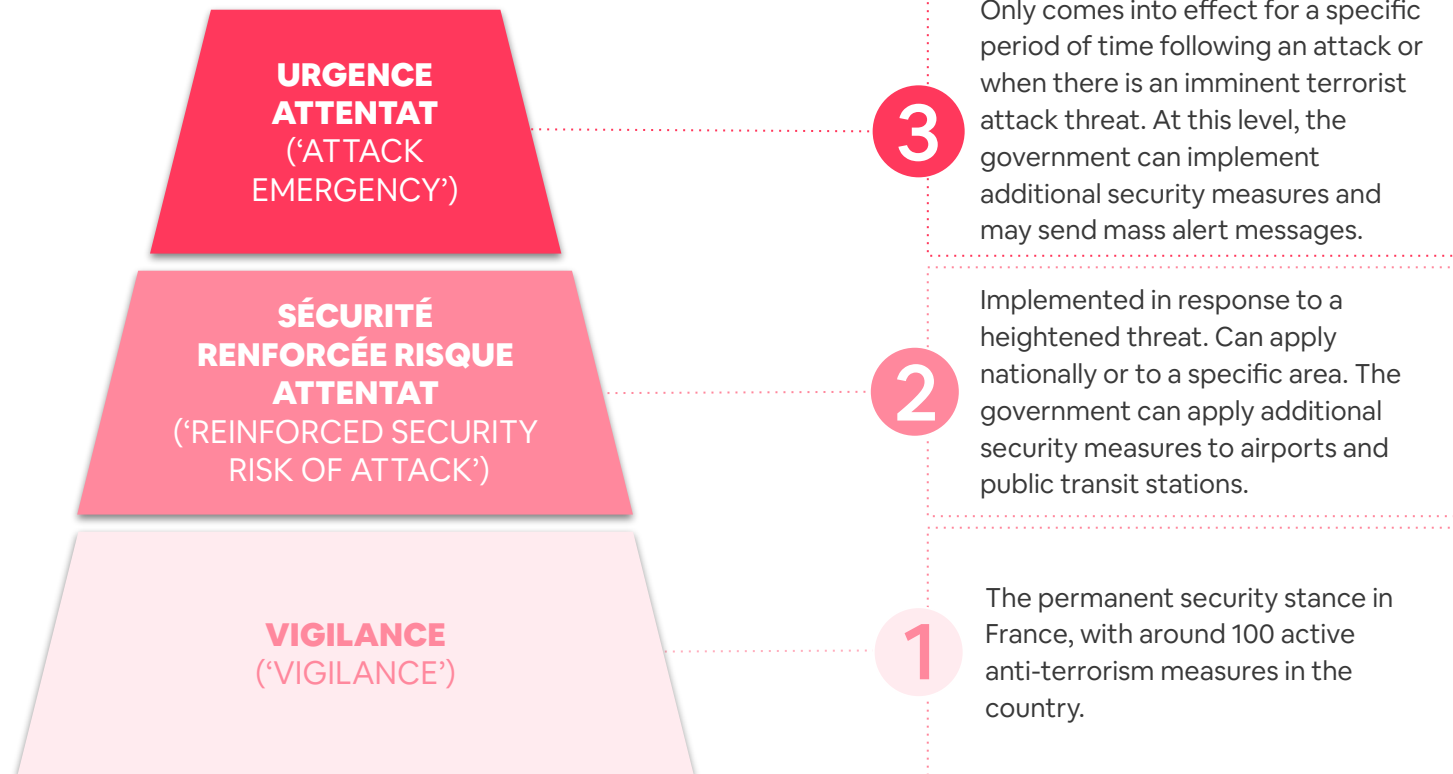
- Vigipirate is a three-tier alert system that informs the French public of terror threats.
- Each level grants the government powers to manage emergency crises.
- Additional powers can include increased military deployments and the ability to send mass communications about terror threats.
- An increase in alert level **does not** always indicate an imminent terror attack as it may refer to a major national event (such as the Olympics). The government generally reverts to a lower level following an assessment.



CURRENT SITUATION

- The government raised the alert level to 'Urgence Attentat' in response to the March 22 attack in Moscow claimed by Islamic State.
- Additional factors cited in the update included the conflicts in Ukraine and Middle East, foiled terrorist attacks in France and wider Europe. The update also cites the high level of cyber threat, likely linked to recent cyber attacks on government websites.
- Although President Emmanuel Macron warned of attempted terror plots, the current Vigipirate level does not indicate an immediate terror threat.

VIGIPIRATE BREAKDOWN



FORECAST

- The French government had planned to maintain the 'Reinforced security - risk of attack' level until the Olympic Torch arrives May 1. However, following the Moscow attacks, concerns about terrorist activity in Europe and reports of unsuccessful plots in France, the French government will likely maintain the current 'Attack Emergency' level until and during the Olympics and Paralympics.
- Previous extended periods of high security measures (such as the State of Emergency in 2015-2016) led to criticism around cost and protests over restrictions.

TIMELINE

RATINGS OVER TIME

- 1** **November 2014**
VIGILANCE
The government introduces the updated Vigipirate system with two levels
- 3** **January 2015**
URGENCE ATTENTAT
Alert level raised following the Charlie Hebdo shooting
- 3** **November 2015**
STATE OF EMERGENCY
France maintained the level and declared a state of emergency after attacks in Paris, extending to cover the 2016 UEFA soccer tournament
- 2** **December 2016**
SÉCURITÉ RENFORCÉE
France introduces a new security level, increasing it to three
- 3** **October 2020**
URGENCE ATTENTAT
Level raised after the 2020 Nice stabbing
- 2** **March 2021**
SÉCURITÉ RENFORCÉE
Level lowered after reassessment
- 3** **October 2023**
URGENCE ATTENTAT
Raised following a stabbing attack in Arras
- 2** **January 2024**
SÉCURITÉ RENFORCÉE
Level lowered after reassessment
- 3** **March 2024**
URGENCE ATTENTAT
Raised following the March 22 Islamic State attack in Moscow