

Volume 2, Issue 8

September 2020

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

Severe

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**CRITICAL**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “**CRITICAL**” means that an event is underway or expected imminently.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**ELEVATED**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “**ELEVATED**” means FB-ISAO is not aware of any specific or targeted cyber threats, but there is a concern that the general risk of cyber threat activity is higher than normal.

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

National Preparedness Month

Certainly, 2020 will go down in the books as one very full and challenging year. From the pandemic to protests to one of the [most active](#) hurricane seasons in recent history (and one that is on pace to potentially be the [most active season](#) since records began in 1851), no time has better emphasized the importance of being ready for disasters and whatever else may come. September is National Preparedness Month, as noted in this year’s [White House Proclamation](#) on National Preparedness Month 2020.

“During National Preparedness Month, we pause to reflect on the importance of mitigating the effects of disasters and tragedies on our lives by devoting time and resources to being prepared... Promoting a culture of resilience through preparedness helps enable communities and individuals to take the preparatory actions necessary to overcome the threats and hazards that present themselves.” - White House Proclamation on National Preparedness Month 2020.

“During National Preparedness Month, I encourage all Americans to adopt a proactive mindset and take the necessary steps to prepare their families and communities to withstand and recover from unexpected events. We cannot always know when the next crisis will occur, but we can know that we will be prepared by committing ourselves to a culture of resilience.” - White House Proclamation on National Preparedness Month 2020.

At FB-ISAO, we strongly believe in a personal and community commitment to preparedness. As part of our community effort, we are looking forward to relaunching our workshop series, moving online and with an updated schedule of events to be posted soon. We hope members and other stakeholders will join us for those in the months ahead. National Preparedness Month (NPM), however, is really focused on a foundational part of community preparedness and resilience - the individual and the family.



The theme of this year’s National Preparedness Month is “**Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.**” FEMA and the Ad Council began National Preparedness Month with new public service announcements informing Americans how they and their families can best prepare for disasters while accounting for the coronavirus

(COVID-19) pandemic. As stated in a [FEMA Advisory](#), “The theme of this year’s National Preparedness Month is ‘Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.’ It encourages people from all communities to prepare for the possibility of natural disasters, which could range from wildfires to hurricanes and tornadoes. ‘This year, we’ve seen that preparedness actions save lives,’ said FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor. ‘Hurricanes and wildfires aren’t waiting for COVID-19 to end, and neither should your preparedness activities. I encourage you to make the most of this time you have with your families and have those discussions about your emergency plans, specifically how they may look different this year in a COVID-19 environment.’” [Read More...](#)

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

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Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

[How to join...](#)

Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack - You Need to Be!

[Write to membership](#)

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

September Monthly Threat Brief	30 September 2020
Workshops	Planning in Progress

Resources for Schools

On 31 August, the Threat and Incident Response Group, updated the [Threat Level Assessment](#). FB-ISAO continued, as we have been for a few months now, to strongly encourage members to “hold the line.” By hold the line, we mean continue to follow FSLTT guidance and directives and reopen, reenter and resume operations in accordance with, and not ahead of, such guidance and directives. In some parts of the country schools are re-opening based on FSLTT guidance. In that light, below are a few resources for members who serve a security function in faith-based school.

- [SchoolSafety.gov](#) was created by the federal government to provide schools and districts with actionable recommendations to create a safe and supportive learning environment where students can thrive and grow.
- Given the stressful sentiment across the country due to the pandemic, protests and political events, please find this resource on [Characteristics of School Shootings](#).
- The FB-ISAO Pandemic Recovery Group issued a [Pandemic Reopening Reentry Checklist](#) which is a compilation of government guidelines, best practices and special consideration for Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) to help pilot their efforts on reopening.

Spotlight: Monthly Threat Brief

On 25 August, we held our first Monthly Threat Brief (MTB), with great success! The topic of discussion was “How to Safely Observe Religious Commemorations in the Midst of a Pandemic”. The Co-Chairs of the [BRG](#) hosted the meeting. To get the discussion going, a short slide presentation was shared, however, the discussion got underway quickly!

During the all-member meeting on 05 August, Mayya Saab encouraged members to follow the maturity trajectory of FB-ISAO and to get involved with two-way sharing. The discussion during August’s MTB was exactly that - members sharing their own best practices and becoming FORCE MULTIPLIERS! In fact, after the meeting, one member posted this comment in the #general channel on FB-ISAO Slack:

“Excellent presentation that sparked great discussion. I look forward to future exchanges with even more participation.”

September’s MTB is scheduled for 30 September at 12:30pm. MTB’s are open to members of FB-ISAO and [registration is required](#).

Members are also encouraged to provide input on topics they would like to see covered in future MTBs. Please Contact Rob Yandow. Rob can be reached on FB-ISAO Slack; however, if members prefer email, please write to membership@faithbased-isao.org - we will get the requested information over to Rob.