

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 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.

Stories

With So Much Going on...Don’t Forget about Physical Security, Page 1

Notable Threats or Attacks During Holiday Seasons Past, Page 2

Spotlight: VA Workshops, Page 2

Upcoming Events, Page 2

FB-ISAO Newsletter

With So Much Going On...Don’t Forget About Physical Security

With the ongoing Pandemic, the election, and severe weather events, it is easy to overlook the upcoming holiday season which is rapidly approaching. In years past, crowds would gather at Faith-Based Organizations’ (FBO) locations and in public spaces for celebrations of the season. These seasonal festivities bring good feelings but also potential threats from attackers who see the larger crowds and soft targets as an opportunity to promote their ideology via mass causality attacks. Whether it is through a vehicle as a weapon / vehicle ramming attack such as in Berlin in 2016, or a knife attack as occurred last year in France, attackers continue to target holiday events and celebrations. However, without a doubt this season will be different than in years past. Already major retailers have shifted sales and shopping online with many not even opening on Thanksgiving Day (going old-school). In addition, government health guidelines will undoubtedly have an impact on the ability for groups to hold celebrations, festivals and markets based on the number of people who can gather together. This does not mean that there won’t be events though. It will just be different. As such, seasonal threats, coupled together with the number of outdoor



seasonal events can increase the risk to FBOs. However, by reviewing and assessing their current security situation, and using resources available in products such as the DHS’s [Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places Resource Guide](#), leaders and organizations can enhance

security and make risk-informed decisions related to potential threats.

The evolving threat landscape presents significant security challenges for businesses, especially as organizations attempt to balance the spirit of the season, and practicing / celebrating their faith-based traditions with public safety. COVID-19 has meant that the types of threats that have existed in years past, to include active shooters, or inspired / influenced attacks, have declined. However, violence in other areas has increased (gun violence is up), and there have still been examples of hostile events around the world including recent inspired attacks in France. In addition, continuing through a politically charged election season, and the continued social justice movements, FBOs are likely to experience a dynamic security situation, as well as the enduring threat from low-tech, public venue attacks, and threats from criminals looking to find ways to access customers wallets through scams and thefts.

Page 2 of this newsletter contains a listing of “Recent Notable Threats or Attacks During Holiday Seasons Past” for members’ general awareness. To continue reading this post go to the [FB-ISAO Blog site](#).

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

Company Name

FB-ISAO

Email

Info@faithbased-isao.org

Website

www.faithbased-isao.org

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

November Monthly Threat Brief	24 Nov. 2020
Wisconsin Security Primer Event	12 Nov. 2020

Recent Notable Threats or Attacks During Holiday Seasons Past

- In 2018, five people when a man attacked civilians at the [Strasbourg, France](#) Christmas Market.
- In 2017, the Islamic State provided supporters with a [hit list of US churches](#) for supporters to attack.
- In 2017, a truck driver was arrested for planning an attack on [Fisherman's Wharf](#) in San Francisco on Christmas Day.
- The [Berlin Christmas Market attack](#) resulted in 12 deaths.
- In [2016](#), three men were arrested in Australia for planning an attack during the Christmas period in a public space.
- In 2010, the FBI thwarted a terrorist attack at a [tree lighting ceremony in Portland, Oregon](#).

Spotlight: Virginia Workshop

The FB-ISAO team really looks forward to getting on the road and delivering hostile event preparedness workshops in-person. Given the on-going health threat, the team pivoted and developed a virtual delivery of our workshops. On October 13, 14 and 15 and again on October 20, 21 and 22, we held two workshops in partnership with the [Virginia Fusion Center](#) and [InfraGardNCR](#), for FBOs in Virginia and more broadly. The team was a little apprehensive about how the sessions would be received but upon completion of the workshops, we can safely say that the workshops were well received!

Originally, the workshops were designed to be delivered over a 6-7 hour period over one day, however, in a virtual setting that kind of delivery would make for a long day and potential "Zoom fatigue". The team came up with a way to split the session into three separate modules that were delivered over three days with each session spanning 2.5 hours. The schedule and delivery worked beautifully.

Attendees were engaged - they shared their best practices, challenges and needs for improvement and they become FORCE MULTIPLIERS. Below is some of their feedback.

"Excellent, excellent, excellent. In contrast with other groups in this workspace, you consistently excel."

"Everyone has something to offer. There is a real need for this type of workshop."

"Realized that there are a lot of resources available to help with our threat awareness. If we need help with information, I know where to go now."

Our workshop schedule is still developing and will likely kick into high gear in early 2021. Check the [events page](#) regularly and if you are not a member of FB-ISAO, [join NOW](#) to get notified of the new dates!