

Volume 2, Issue 12

December 2020

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

Severe

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “SEVERE.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “SEVERE” means that an event is highly likely.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “GUARDED.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “GUARDED” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

Stories

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

Information Sharing to the Benefit of the Community of Faith

By Mayya Saab, Executive Director

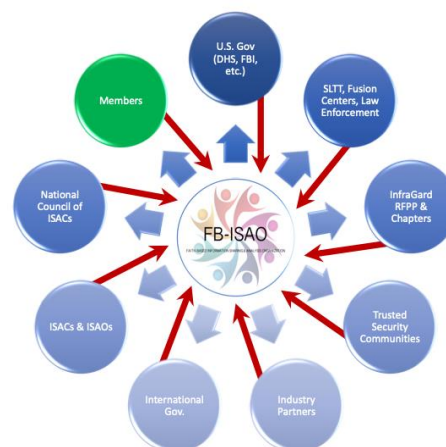
As we approach closing out 2020, I took stock of where FB-ISAO was in January 2020 and where we are today. The year 2020 has been a difficult year for all and I think it is safe to say that we are ready to put 2020 in the rear-view mirror.

Thank you to the FB-ISAO team, our members, [Board of Advisors](#), partners and many supporters for helping us get through this challenging year. As we look back and look forward at the same time, please take a moment to review the below excerpt from [this report](#) on the capabilities that we made available to our community in 2020. FB-ISAO is stronger, more effective and more resolute today than at any other time. (The report was developed by the [Outreach and Engagement Working Group](#).)

FB-ISAO AS AN INFORMATION SHARING HUB

Our team’s long standing operational support to multiple information sharing centers has enabled us to build a trusted network. This gives us access to a vast amount of subject matter expertise and provides us access to information well beyond our immediate membership. We continue to devote a lot of time and attention to maturing and growing these relationships. We partner with [Fusion Centers](#) and [InfraGard Chapters](#). We have strong relationships with our partners in the United States Government such as the Department of Homeland Security and FBI. FB-ISAO is a partner organization in the [National Council of ISACs](#). Our partners are encouraged to join FB-ISAO (in fact, their membership is sponsored by FB-ISAO.) We want our partners to see, first-hand, the faith-based community’s road blacks to enhancing preparedness, security and resiliency programs.

The premise is simple - collaboration makes everyone stronger. Through trusted collaboration, members can better secure their faith-based organizations.



FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

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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

Grants Town Hall	17 Dec. 2020
Many more events planned for 2021	

Grants Town Hall

Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) can use all the help they can get when it comes to securing their facilities. The [FEMA Non-Profit Security Grant Program](#) “provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack(s). The intent is to integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. It is also designed to promote coordination and collaboration in emergency preparedness activities among public and private community representatives, as well as state and local government agencies.”

In 2020 the total funding available was 90,000,000.00 up from 60,000,000.00 from the year before. Typically, the notice of funding opportunity goes out in late winter / early spring while the application period closes in the spring.

FBOs should begin preparing to apply for the 2021 program **NOW**. Below are some preparation steps to consider:

- Review the prior year’s [notice of funding](#) and supporting documents
- Review the [FBO-HOW website](#) for resources to aid in the preparation process
- Attend the FB-ISAO Grants Town Hall on 17 December. The registration link is available [here](#).

Spotlight: The Power of Hello

Recently CISA released a resource titled “The Power of Hello” and on 01 December, CISA released a houses of worship specific iteration of the original resource. The resource was created by CISA to promote employee vigilance tailored to houses of worship and empowers all personnel to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, mitigate potential risk, and obtain help when necessary.

Hello, with that spelling, was used in publications in the U.S. as early as 1826. Such a simple word, Hello, with different spellings, has been used globally. From the [CISA resource](#), “Used effectively, the right words can be a powerful tool.” Further, the resource makes suggestions on the many ways that the word “Hello,” coupled with follow-on words, can be used as a way to discover more about the intent of a visitor to a place of worship. The resource suggests using the OHNO approach which is:

- Observe
- Initiate a Hello
- Navigate the Risk
- Obtain Help

These steps, used effectively, allow front-line staff to observe and evaluate indicators of behavior, while enabling them to lower risk as they seek help from others.

The resource mentions that “All houses of worship support personnel can contribute greatly to enhancing security by understanding how to identify behavioral indicators and taking precautionary actions to safely mitigate the impacts of a potential attack.”