

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2021

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

Mission Preparedness,
Page 1

What Happened and What
is Happening Next, Page 2

Spotlight: Cyber Threat
Intelligence Working
Group, Page 2

Upcoming Events, Page 2

FB-ISAO Newsletter

Mission Preparedness

Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) serve their communities in so many different ways. People gather there to do all sorts of things, to include worship, but also to socialize, attend classes, teach their children, provide community-based services like job search support, receive mental health services, and other activities. Many FBOs also serve the global community by embarking on mission trips. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the ability of many FBOs to travel on mission trips, the hopeful news of a global vaccine program would open the door for mission trips to resume or accelerate soon.

Mission preparedness is very similar to preparedness activities that one would take at home. These activities may include:

- Threat Awareness and Assessment
- Personal Security Awareness
- Natural Hazard Awareness
- Public Health Awareness

FB-ISAO’s weekly report and weekly advisory can be useful in assisting with awareness of all hazards. If you are not receiving the weekly report and the weekly advisory, consider signing up as you prepare for a trip. Visit the [membership page](#) for more information.

Security of people and resources on mission trips is, of course, of utmost importance. Members of your congregation who are taking part in a mission should have clear and reliable modes of communications. It would be best to find out what one can expect, in terms of communication availability in-country ahead of the planned trip. A good source of information might include country specific information available from the [Department of State](#). It would also be helpful if members of the travelling congregation are equipped with a list of mission leaders and team leads so that communication protocols, in case of an emergency, are clear. Organizations would also benefit from conducting cultural awareness training where individuals who will be on the trip are provided with do’s and don’ts that can help travelers avoid offending the local population.

It is important for individuals to understand the threat environment and potential actions they should take should they encounter an increased threat or risk. The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), part of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security within the U.S. Department of State has developed and maintains a Risk Matrix which can be used to access and mitigate risk. The Risk Matrix can be accessed [here](#). Completing the fillable matrix can allow FBOs to methodically walk through the risk profile of the destination while providing resources for consideration embedded in the document. Specifically, the following documents and resources are leveraged to fill out the data in the Matrix.

- [State Dept. Travel Advisory](#)
- [Consular Affairs Country Information](#)
- [OSAC Country Security Report](#)
- [Nearest U.S. Embassy / Consulate](#)

Additional references for use by missionaries are:

- [CDC Travel Page](#)
- [World Health Organization Travel Page](#)

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

Member On-Boarding	15 March
Fire As A Weapon	18 March
Media Literacy	23 March
Monthly Threat Brief	30 March
Hostile Event Preparedness Workshops in PA	March, April and June

What Happened and What is Happening Next?

On 25 February 2021, our partners at [CISA](#) and [InfraGardNCR](#) delivered a brief, followed by a discussion, on The [Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship Security Guide](#). In case you missed the discussion, we sent a TLP:AMBER distro with a link to the recorded session.

March is shaping up to be a very busy month. Below please find a listing of all the events that we are holding:

- Fire As A Weapon: Our sponsor, [Gate 15](#), has expanded their Hostile Event Preparedness education to include Fire As a Weapon.
Date: 18 March 2021
Time: 1:00pm ET
Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141979868609>
- Media Literacy: Join your fellow FB-ISAO member, Ed Heyman, to learn about media literacy. In this age of information overload, finding sources you can trust is imperative.
Date: 23 March 2021
Time: 1:30pm ET
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/media-literacy-tickets-144049791805>
- Member On-Boarding: We encourage all members, new and old, to join our member on-boarding sessions. The member on-boarding sessions are the best way to understand member benefits.
Date: 15 March 2021
Time: Noon ET
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fb-isao-member-on-boarding-tickets-144056999363>
- March MTB: Poway Synagogue Shooting Review and Lessons Learned. Join the Co-Chairs of Operational Resilience Group and member, Mark Raissen, as well as FB-ISAO Advisory Board member Curtis Jones, to review an emotive 2m32s step by step video presentation that encompasses all eyewitness accounts and many training and actual learning take-a-ways.
Date: 30 March 2021
Time: 12:30pm ET
Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fb-isao-monthly-threat-brief-mtb-tickets-144053494881>

Spotlight: Cyber Threat Intelligence Working Group

Faith-Based Organizations have been largely focused on physical security and rightfully so! According to The [Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship Security Guide](#), between 2009 and 2019, there were 37 incidents of targeted violence in Houses of Worship where 64 people lost their lives and another 59 people suffered injuries.

Spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to do more on-line versus in person, malicious cyber incidents, targeting Houses of Worship, are becoming increasingly common. Since cyber threats are a relatively new risk to the community of faith, there is the need for a lot of 'cyber explaining'.

The [Cyber Threat Intelligence \(CTIG\) Working Group](#) held a meeting on 02 March to discuss the best approach to programs that will meet the need for that 'cyber explaining.' **Members are encouraged to join this working group** in order to contribute towards the development of programs and events on the topic of cyber threats.

For more information on the CTIG and to get involved, write to info@faithbased-isao.org.