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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

2020 Hostile Event Preparedness Workshops - What Did We Learn?

When the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations was stood up in June of 2018, we had many plans for how we can meet the mission of providing members with **information**, **analysis**, and **capabilities** to help **reduce risk** while enhancing **preparedness**, **security**, and **resilience**.

Hostile Event Preparedness Discussion-Based Workshops was at the fore-front of those plans. It took some time to get there! In the early fall of 2019, the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) announced the start of a planning processes for a 2020 Workshop Series focusing on Hostile Events Preparedness. Collaboration with U.S. Government partners, state and local government, and law enforcement partners from around the United States formally starting in July 2019.

After months of development, the first workshop was conducted in Orlando, Florida on 19 February 2020. Additional in-person workshops were scheduled for both Virginia and Wisconsin with the intent on performing others with Faith Based Organizations in other localities around the country. However, impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic regrettably altered workshop scheduling. The Virginia workshops were conducted virtually in October 2020. No other workshop events were conducted in 2020.

2020 HEPS Workshop Locations						
Location	Type	Duration	Date(s)	Participants		
				FBO	Observers	Total
Orlando Florida	In-Person	One-Day (7 hour)	19 Feb.	19	10	29
Virginia	Virtual	Three-Day (3 hr. per)	13-15 Oct.	19	18	37
Virginia	Virtual	Three-Day (3 hr. per)	21-23 Oct.	25	6	31

The 2020 Hostile Event Preparedness (HEPS) Workshop Series provided a forum for faith-based and charity organizations to enhance their threat awareness and preparedness relating to potential physical attacks at their facilities. The use of a hostile events scenario was used to provide participants an opportunity to interact with one another through a facilitated discussion, and to identify best practices, opportunities for improvement, and salient points of concern. [Learn more about the workshop objectives.](#)

Some of the findings from the workshops included:

The overwhelming concern is the cost associated with preparedness and prioritization of security. Most faith-based organizations (FBOs) have limited resources. Harnessing cost savings from expertise within a congregation, grants, and community engagement with Law Enforcement, other FBOs, security groups and FB-ISAO were shown to help contain these costs by using these resources to identify threats and seek appropriate best practices.

There is a continued need for improvement on information sharing and collaboration across FBO’s, law enforcement, and sharing networks. Building relationships for timely distribution of critical information to help identify and mitigate hostile threats was deemed paramount.

The determination for congregational concealed weapon carry continues to be challenging. Rules of engagement, state laws, and emphasis on required and realistic training make decision-making by senior leadership all the more difficult.

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

Monthly Threat Brief	27 April
Member On-Boarding	21 May
Hostile Event Preparedness Workshops in PA	March, April and June

Where Do Members Live on FB-ISAO Slack?

To achieve true collaboration amongst our members we established FB-ISAO Slack. Slack is a channel-based messaging platform. With Slack, members can work together more effectively to share information and best practices and to collaborate on initiatives that not only build resiliency within their own organizations but for the entire community of faith. [What is Slack?](#)

The Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We depend on membership dues to sustain operations and as such we have three membership tiers. On FB-ISAO Slack, all members have access to the #general channel. Basic members have access to limited channels information sharing channels, however, members at our standard level gain access to [Information Sharing Communities](#) where they can join their peers in specific geographical areas to share information and collaborate on initiatives that affect them at the local level. At our highest level of membership, members also gain access to [working groups](#) channels where ongoing collaborative groups comprised of FB-ISAO members and staff focusing on specific areas that are important to enhancing FB-ISAO's capabilities and the ways in which our organization can support members' threat and risk awareness, preparedness, security, and operations.

We conducted a quick analysis of where members are sharing information on FB-ISAO Slack and interestingly we found that a large number of members are "living" on the #cybersecurity_general information channel as well as the #international channels followed by the #covid-19 channel and the #best_practices channels. The channels that host information on active shooter incidents / mitigations, NSGP and other grants, specific threats to faith-based organizations and the channel on suspicions activity reporting are also popular.

We want members to know and understand how to maximize their involvement with FB-ISAO and since Slack is where it all happens, we want you to:

1. [Get started!](#)
2. Then, [see what you can do!](#)
3. Next, [join a channel](#)
4. And [then, start a conversation, ask a question or share a best practice](#)

Spotlight: Reopening

While reopenings have begun in earnest around the world, and even though some businesses and faith-based organizations (FBO) have been open for an extended period of time, it is important to review the reopening and reentry processes. In May 2020, FB-ISAO stood up a working group to address the topic of reopening and reentry. The working group's mission was to develop guidelines for reopening and reentry. The group developed a checklist which is a compilation of government guidelines, best practices and special consideration for FBOs to help pilot their efforts on reopening. FBOs do not fit a mold - they come in all faiths, sizes and have differing traditions. Each individual FBO will need to marry the checklist to their state and local regulations as well as take into account their size and their traditions.

The checklist was sent to members as a TLP:GREEN distro in June 2020 and can be accessed on FB-ISAO Slack. This checklist is compiled from multiple sources and outlines some key safety and security considerations for FBOs to review regardless of what stage of the reopening process they are in. This list is also not all inclusive but rather provides some points of emphasis.

- Learn more about [The Checklist](#)
- [Access a recording of a webinar](#) on the how to use the checklist to guide reopening and reentry