

Volume 3, Issue 9

September 2021

[FB-ISAO Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

ELEVATED

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.

Please note that the Pandemic Threat Level has been lowered to **ELEVATED**.

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.

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

September is National Preparedness Month

[National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM) is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is “**Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.**”

The goal of this month and the entire Ready campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement. While many of the actions are directed toward individuals and their families, especially after the year that 2021 has been, it should be understood that businesses benefit in creating a culture of preparedness in all aspects of an individual’s life. Additionally, organizations can take the same lessons, as well as other resources from [Ready.gov](#) to plan and prepare for the variety of all-hazards threats that they may be at risk from. In the midst of a global pandemic, when hurricanes have affected and will continue to affect parts of the U.S., wildfires threaten large areas in the Western U.S., with violent protests occurring across the country over much of the last few months, as winter weather approaches, and threat actors seeking to exploit physical and cybersecurity gaps and vulnerabilities, **preparedness planning has never been more important.** By using the NPM weekly themes, organizations can systematically review their own processes while strengthening their preparedness culture / enterprise. Through these efforts, and creating security conscious and prepared individuals and families, individuals, households, and organizations can reduce the risk to their organizations and mitigate the impact from a variety of all-hazards threats.



NPM Resources

- [Download the FEMA app](#) for disaster resources, weather alerts, and safety tips.
- Sign up for preparedness text messages: Text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA) to receive [preparedness tips](#) (msg/data rates apply).
- Remember to include emergency preparedness messages in your social media, email signature, monthly newsletters, or other messaging tools.
- [DHS Disasters Homepage](#)
- [FEMA](#)
- [National Preparedness Month](#)
- [Ready.gov Plan For Disaster 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

Illinois Faith-Based Security Primer	09 September
Hostile Event Preparedness Education: Fire As A Weapon	15 September
Monthly Threat Brief	30 September

See Something, Say Something

By Jorrdan Barroso, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

While there are no current known specific and credible threats to faith-based facilities, community members must stay vigilant and educate themselves on the indicators of terrorism-related suspicious activity. September 25 is National [If You See Something, Say Something](#) Awareness Day. The campaign is centered around the idea that as we go about our day, if we see something that doesn't seem quite right, we should say something. By being alert and reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement, we can protect our family, neighbors, and our communities.

A great example of See Something, Say Something at work, occurred on March 14, 2021 when just before a service at the First Baptist Church in Brevard, North Carolina was set to begin, the security team [noticed suspicious activity](#) outside their facility through their security cameras. Upon further investigation, it was determined that there was an unknown type of device left outside. The church informed the Pastor, and then called the police. After the device was confirmed, the police cordoned off and evacuated the immediate area. Ultimately, the police confirmed that there were in fact several explosive devices, initially assessed at approximately 20, and the incident was called a "serious threat." Members should familiarize themselves with suspicious activity indicators because their awareness and vigilance may prevent an attack just like the one in this incident. Suspicious activity indicators for religious facilities may include damage to security devices like security lights or cameras, unattended packages and bags, or threatening emails. Individuals can play a role by familiarizing themselves with the indicators of suspicious activity. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) [developed indicators for faith-based organizations](#) to use throughout their facilities here.

The Florida "If You See Something, Say Something®" (Florida See Say) campaign educates the public on suspicious activity indicators and emphasizes the importance of reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement. Individuals can report suspicious activity to law enforcement by calling local law enforcement directly, by calling the toll-free statewide phone number at 855-FLA-SAFE, by submitting their tip online via the [FDLE Toolkit](#), or by reporting a tip via the free Florida See Say app which is available in both the Google Play and Apple App stores.

For questions about the Florida See Say campaign, contact the Campaign Manager Jorrdan Barroso at jorrdanbarroso@fdle.state.fl.us.

Spotlight: Members and Partners

On Tuesday 31 August, FB-ISAO held its Monthly Threat Brief (MTB). The MTB focused on a discussion of security preparations ahead of high-profile events such as the High Holidays and the traditional Fall holidays. We are grateful to [Susan Schneider](#) who joined the MTB to provide an overview of [CISA tools available to houses of worship](#) including the [Power Of Hello](#) resource. Susan is the Branch Chief of Active Assailant Security, Infrastructure Security Division at CISA. The MTB also included a panel, made up of your fellow FB-ISAO members, who shared best practices and other guidance based on their own experiences. Members of FB-ISAO who participated in the panel discussion are **FORCE MULTIPLIERS**.

Member interactions are not limited to the MTB - they are also occurring on FB-ISAO Slack. In case you missed it, please read this post on [A Powerful Tool in Your Preparedness Tool Belt](#). If you haven't joined FB-ISAO Slack yet, please send a message to membership@faithbased-isao.org so we can get you started.

To learn about the benefits available to our members, please watch [this video](#).