

Volume 3, Issue 10

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[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.

Stories

Training and Workshops Help Build Resilience, Page 1

Minnesota Offers Tip App for Reporting Threats Made Against Religious Facilities, Page 2

Spotlight: Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Page 2

Upcoming Events, Page 2

FB-ISAO Newsletter

Training and Workshops Help Build Resilience

By William Flynn, Partner & Chief Content Officer, The Power of Preparedness (TPOP) and FB-ISAO Advisory Board Member

Freedom of religion is one of the fundamental liberties enshrined in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Yet acts of targeted violence against houses of worship are a real—and potentially growing—problem in the United States.

To mitigate these threats and enhance the preparedness of clergy, staff, and congregants, the First Congressional Church of Hampton, United Church of Christ took a creative, innovative, and cost-effective approach to train 29 houses of worship, of all religious denominations, throughout Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

The secret to success for this effort was accomplished utilizing [FEMA’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#) and teaming with [The Power of Preparedness \(TPOP\)](#), a Michigan-based, veteran-owned, e-learning company specializing in Workplace Violence and Active Shooter Preparedness training. The comprehensive course has been customized for houses of worship to reflect the unique environment and response protocols for faith-based organizations. Underscoring the importance of this initiative, the training is introduced by New Hampshire [Governor Chris Sununu](#).

The course includes these critical topics:

- Recognizing workplace violence
- Behavioral indicators
- Situational awareness
- Gunfire recognition
- [Verbal de-escalation techniques](#)
- [Run-Hide-Fight](#) active shooter response methodology
- [Response to injury](#)

TPOP’s team of subject matter experts are nationally recognized thought leaders, educators, mental health professionals, and digital learning design experts. The training can be accessed on any internet enabled device, providing a customized 1:1 experience that provides the knowledge and tactics for anyone to mitigate workplace violence where possible, and, when necessary, survive an active shooter event.

Since 2019, FB-ISAO, along with Government and Law Enforcement partners, has offered [Hostile Event Preparedness Workshops](#) across the country. The workshops help faith-based organizations consider their preparedness initiatives. Specifically, the workshops:

- Use a hostile events scenario to **provide participants an opportunity to interact with one another and discuss issues, concerns, best practices and other salient points regarding physical security preparedness, coordination, and response** (*these exercises do not focus on recovery*) among participants to help inform organizational preparedness, security & resilience.
- Use a hostile events scenario to **provide participants with greater awareness of USG and local government resources, guidance and best practices relating to hostile events and physical security** to help inform organizational preparedness, security & resilience.

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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

Brief on Homegrown Violent Extremists	20 October
Monthly Threat Brief	?? October
Education on Hostile Event Attack Cycle	04 November

Minnesota Offers Tip App for Reporting Threats Made Against Religious Facilities

By Jill Oliveira, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Last month, a United States District Judge handed down a 53-year prison sentence to Emily Claire Hari, f/k/a Michael Hari, for the August 5, 2017, bombing of the Dar al-Farooq (DAF) Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minnesota. Hari and two cohorts travelled from Illinois to Minnesota to carry out the bombing which was intended to terrorize Muslims. While this crime did not originate in Minnesota, it is indicative of a rising trend of bias crime incidents at Minnesota places of worship.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) encourages Minnesota's faith organizations and facilities to partner with the BCA and local law enforcement entities to identify ways to respond to incidents and - more importantly - to prevent them from happening in the first place.

As part of an ongoing effort, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension recently introduced a tip app, See It, Say It, Send It, specifically for religious community staff and congregants to submit information about threats of violence targeting religious facilities. The app is also available to schools.

The idea is simple. Congregants, and staff, who learn of planned violence targeting a religious facility can use the app to quickly send information, photos and other relevant material to the BCA. The sender can choose to be anonymous. The BCA will review the information and then coordinate with local, state, federal, and tribal authorities and religious facility leadership on a response.

When the threat is imminent, the first step is always to call 911. A second step could be using See It, Say It, Send It to provide the same threat information to the BCA. Providing the information to the state, in addition to local authorities, allows the state agency to analyze the tip along with others received and connect the dots about potential violence involving multiple jurisdictions, dioceses or faith communities.

Use of the See It, Say It, Send It app is another tool available to Minnesota's faith communities as they develop plans and best practices for keeping their congregants safe.

The Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) held a Hostile Event Preparedness Workshop (virtual) in Minnesota on October 5, 6 and 7. The workshop was hosted by the BCA. Workshop attendees were guided through a discussion of their hostile event preparedness initiatives. The discussion included the sharing of best practices, opportunities for improvement and enduring challenges. During the workshop, use cases for the See It, Say It, Send It were discussed as part of a general discussion on the benefits of incident reporting as a best practice.

You can learn more about how Minnesota is using the See It, Say It, Send It app by contacting the BCA at 651-793-3730 or visiting the [BCA website](#).

Spotlight: Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Welcome to [Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), 2021! Each week in October focuses on a different aspect of what it takes to "Do Your Part. Be Cyber Smart."

- Week 1 (October 4-10): Be Cyber Smart
- Week 2 (October 11-17): Phight the Phish!
- Week 3 (October 18-24): Explore. Experience. Share
- Week 4 (October 25-31): Cybersecurity First