

Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2022

[FB-ISAO Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

Guarded

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 [Guarded](#).

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

The Need for Community Partnerships and Connections

The Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) continually stresses the need for members and member organizations to be active and to engage their respective communities in order to help reduce risk while enhancing preparedness, security, and resilience. It takes a village!

The traditional types of threats that Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) contend with are ever-present and those include being potential targets for violent extremists and hate-based groups. However, local threats may tell a different story or highlight different threats. There may be a criminal element, or an illicit drug culture in the neighborhood that goes beyond usual threats that FBOs may encounter. Recently, FBOs have been subjects of fall-out activity due to political and social protests.

To become more resilient, FBOs could partner with other organizations or local agencies to enhance communications, coordination and training opportunities leading to improved security protocols, increased awareness of suspicious activity indicators, and ultimately improve the ability to prevent, detect, deter, and disrupt potential plots. This includes partnering with local law enforcement and fusion centers who may be able to provide valuable threat information and be a source to review and assess security plans.

FIRSTRESPONDERSTOOLBOX

NCTC

Threats Against Houses of Worship Highlight the Importance of Religious Community Outreach

Houses of worship, faith-based organizations (FBOs), and faith leaders will probably continue to be targets for violent extremists adhering to different violent extremist ideologies, some of whom may be hate crime perpetrators. Enhanced communication, coordination, and training among federal entities, state, local, tribal, and territorial first responder agencies, religious community groups, and private sector partners can improve security protocols, increase awareness of suspicious activity indicators, and ultimately improve the ability to prevent, detect, deter, and disrupt potential plots.

SCOPE: This product raises awareness of potential threats to houses of worship, faith-based organizations, and faith leaders, regardless of type, sect, or denomination, and recommends best practices for engaging with religious communities.

FBOs are encouraged to reach out to those within their community in order to build partnerships. This can be done in a number of ways for a number of benefits. As much as houses of worship should be engaged to learn about the latest

trends and patterns within the community, it is also important to share activities with local law enforcement, first responders and neighbors. One way is to reach out to neighbors, businesses and organizations to introduce yourself and the FBOs you represent. For some FBOs this may be easier than others, especially if an FBO may be in a new development or in rural areas, but neighbors are not just those on either side of the building, they can be in the larger community. Whether or not a house of worship has a dedicated security staff, or if security falls on one-person, getting involved in the community can help one understand the security issues trending within the community, identify how other organizations have addressed these issues, and be security mindful. Through the act of practicing security mindfulness, security teams can assess their situation not only in relation to known threats, but also from potential threats that may exist due to the organization’s activities (or perceived activities/positions.)

[Read more...](#)

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

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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

Hostile Event Preparedness Workshops - National Capital Region	17 November 2022
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Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Cybersecurity Awareness Month was launched by the [National Cybersecurity Alliance](#) and the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) in October 2004 as a broad effort to help all Americans stay safer and more secure online. Operated in many respects as a grassroots campaign, the month's effort has grown to include the participation of a multitude of industry participants that engage their customers, employees, and the general public in cybersecurity awareness. Now in its 19th year, the theme for Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2022 is: *See Yourself In Cyber*. Below are 4 things you can do:

- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication
- Use Strong Passwords
- Recognize and Report Phishing
- Update Your Software

FB-ISAO is a [Cybersecurity Month Awareness Champion Organization](#). FB-ISAO is joined by companies of all sizes, schools, colleges and universities, non-profits and government entities, representing those dedicated to promoting a safer, more secure, and more trusted Internet.



Spotlight: Best Practices for Information Sharing

Recently, Mayya Saab, Executive Director of FB-ISAO, attended the [Auto-ISAC Summit](#) to benchmark and to learn more about information sharing and member engagement best practices. You can [read the entire post here](#). Below are highlights regarding best practices for information sharing from Mayya's post.

- The ISAC / ISAO keeps everyone moving in the same direction.
- Joining an ISAC / ISAO means belonging to a trusted community that "has your back."
- Participating in an ISAC / ISAO means leveraging other smart people to help with the myriad of security related challenges that the sector must address.
- Being part of an ISAC / ISAO makes one 'look up' and to be in a position of anticipating as opposed to reacting.
- Identifying challenges presents opportunities for further and deeper collaboration.
- Since preparedness and resilience contribute to security and security is a long game, being part of something bigger than one has infinite benefits.
- Tackling security issues is not an easy process, however, one can invest in oneself, and others, to teach and learn. If everyone does that, the job becomes easier.
- Members, and member organizations, must make an investment of time and money.