TLP:CLEAR

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

FB-ISAO Newsletter

Active Versus Passive Participation

By Mayya Saab, Executive Director

The CDC declared the end of the COVID-19 public emergency on 11 May 2023. With the COVID-19 Pandemic in the rear-view mirror, people across the world heaved a sigh of cautious relief as they resumed normal life. Moreover, a shift occurred in the midst of the pandemic as we all jumped on-line with gusto to work, connect with family and friends, join religious services, and engage in learning.

The Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO,) and other organizations, saw a spike in on-line member engagement. Over the past 18 months, that on-line engagement has been declining and, perhaps, is being replaced by in-person engagement. No doubt, a national organization like FB-ISAO cannot engage with **all its members in person** all the time and so it was really great to get to know our members in a virtual teach and learn setting. Of late, we noticed that our members continue to sign-up for educational events, community meetings and other events, however, actual attendance and participation has decreased. It is possible that some people sign-up for events in hopes that a recording and slides will be sent following the presentation. FB-ISAO often does share recordings, however, members who do attend our events say the same thing – the value of being in the moment and for being able to engage with other members to teach and learn is invaluable. To them, a recording and slides don't cut it, and the after-presentation materials offer only partial benefit.

On 09 May 2023, I made my way to Tampa, Florida to participate in the Health-ISAC Spring Summit. Peer summits offer me a chance to learn, first-hand, best practices in member engagement. In the Fall of 2022, I attended the Auto-ISAC Summit and was so glad that I did. You can read about my observations, from the Auto-ISAC Summit, here.

My primary goal in attending the Health-ISAC Spring Summit, was to talk to members and to understand what gets them engaged with their Information Sharing and Analysis Center. I am so grateful to the members of the Health-ISAC for the warm welcome and for openly sharing with me why they engage and how. Read the entire post.

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

Office Hours. *(Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.)*	27 June at 1:00pm ET
Coaching Session: How We Can Make a Difference	21 June at 2:00pm ET
2023 Educational Series: A Culture of Security	Monthly, the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm ET

What Role do Bystanders Play?

Many Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) rely on a small staff or volunteers to fulfill security functions, while others may have limited funds available for expanded security. However, focusing only on those who work with, or for, the FBO ignores another potential line of defense – the regular congregation member, the visitor, or the bystander. The congregation may be in a position to identify suspicious activities or anomalous acts. **BYSTANDERS** are individuals whose relationships and levels of interaction with a person enable them to become aware of activities or behaviors that indicate that an individual is on a path to violence. The FBI and the National Counter-terrorism Center (NCTC) published a Joint pamphlet titled Understanding Bystander Interventions to Prevent Terrorism. The pamphlet is available here. Bystanders can be represented in one of four distinct groups:

- **Family Members** (41%), including parents, stepparents, spouses, siblings, cousins, and children.
- **Peers** (39%), such as coworkers, students, close friends, and significant others.
- **Community Authority Figures** (15%), **such as religious leaders**, teachers, and work supervisors.
- **Strangers** (5%). Although strangers were the smallest bystander group, they were the most likely to report concerning behaviors to law enforcement.

Did You Know?

Bystanders observed an average of four to five concerning behaviors by active shooters before shooting incidents. **In 56% of active shooter incidents in the U.S., the attackers leaked their intent to commit violence to one or more third-party bystanders through verbal or written communications or online interactions.**

Spotlight: FBSAC Recommendations

On 06 June 2023, the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council convened, and members presented their recommendations to the entire Council on how DHS can improve information sharing, increase access to DHS grants and resources, and build trust and partnerships with faith-based organizations, leaders, and communities. Mayya Saab, Executive Director of FB-ISAO, participated in the meeting and presented on behalf of the Information Sharing Subcommittee. Read more about the meeting here.

The three Subcommittee reports cab be accessed using the links below.

➤ Information Sharing Subcommittee

➤ Grants and Resources Subcommittee

➤ Building Trust and Partnerships Subcommittee