

Volume 5, Issue 8

August 2023

**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 “**GUARDED**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, **GUARDED**” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

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

## Yet Again...A shooting at a Faith-Based School



As noted in the 01 August FB-ISAO Daily Awareness Post, last week, a threat actor was shot after he had [fired shots outside a Hebrew Academy](#) in Memphis, Tennessee. This incident comes on the heels of another [mass shooting incident at a faith-based school](#) - the Covenant School, a private Christian

elementary school, near Nashville, Tennessee where three adults and three children were killed by a threat actor. More details have emerged about the threat actor in the Memphis TN shooting incident which can then be used by Faith-Based Organizations to consider as part of their security and preparedness planning. In evaluating the incident and security footage, it was also clear that there were several positive takeaways from the incident.

☞ For starters, there were security cameras in place that did capture the threat actor holding a handgun.

☞ The threat actor entered through an exterior door, but he had to turn around after locked security doors prevented him from gaining access to the rest of the building. At this time, the threat actor fired shots in the immediate area before driving away.

☞ While there were only staff members and construction workers in the school at the time, no one was hurt in the incident, which is likely attributable to the security processes in place.

The U.S. continues to experience an increasing number of active shooter events. In 2023, there have been 419 mass shootings. The number of mass shootings this year has already surpassed the total number that occurred in all of 2019, [according to data from the Gun Violence Archive](#). Assailants, typically those motivated by violent extremist ideology, continue to target Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) and religious minorities, necessitating that FBOs continue to reevaluate their security plans, policies, and procedures in light of the heightened threat environment as outlined in the [24 May 2023 National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin](#) (NTAS.) The shooting highlights the importance of strong access controls as a foundational physical security measure. Furthermore, ensuring organizations have an updated emergency action plan (EAP), that is exercised regularly, is another important security protocol. Lastly, establishing a working relationship with local law enforcement can greatly enhance an organization’s security posture. Faith-Based schools often lag behind district schools when it comes to preparedness. A good resource for school safety programs and grants is [SchoolSafety.gov](#). SchoolSafety.gov was created by the federal government to provide schools and districts with actionable recommendations to create safe and supportive learning environments for students and educators.

## FB-ISAO Advisory Board

### Get to Know the Board of Advisors

### Contact Us

Company Name

FB-ISAO

Email

[Info@faithbased-isao.org](mailto:Info@faithbased-isao.org)

Website

[www.faithbased-isao.org](http://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

Office Hours. <i>(Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.)</i>	29 August at 4:00pm ET
<a href="#">Coaching Session: How We Can Make a Difference</a>	16 August at 2:00pm ET
<a href="#">2023 Educational Series: A Culture of Security</a>	04 October at 12:00pm ET
<a href="#">AMA with Robert Goldberg</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 17 August</li> <li>▶ 14 Sept.</li> </ul> <p><i>All Sessions at 12:00pm ET</i></p>



## Recent Swatting Incidents

In late July 2023, Faith-Based Organizations, and more specifically synagogues, were the subject of “swatting” incidents. On 22 July 2023, a Secure Community Network (SCN) Report was [released](#) titled, “Multiple Synagogues Nationwide Receive ‘Swatting’ False Threats”. This report noted that on 21 July, “police departments in Michigan and California received ‘swatting’ phone calls reporting an armed individual in a synagogue.” The report further noted that the calls were made to local police departments and the content suggested a suicidal individual was barricaded in the bathroom of the synagogue with a firearm. This prompted three facilities to evacuate while the reports were investigated. Swatting is the action or practice of making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address. For some, this could be an innocent prank, but for others, it has had deadly consequences, with the police response leading to real shootings and casualties.

The FBI Boston Field Office and the Massachusetts State Police will host three virtual training sessions on responding to and investigating bomb threats and swatting hoaxes. The one-hour training provides attendees an overview of the realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes, and will also cover the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place. [Click here to register.](#)



## Spotlight: Priority Intelligence Requirements

In July 2023, FB-ISAO’s [Communications Working Group](#) convened, virtually, to perform their annual review of the FB-ISAO Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR.) Intelligence requirements are high level – an agreement across the team, in this case the FB-ISAO analysts and members - to prioritize certain information collected and processed over other information because of the relevance to the organization’s assessed needs. To learn more about FB-ISAO’s PIR, please read [this explainer](#). In August 2023, the group published and disseminated, to all members, an update to the PIR. In addition, the group presented the update to members during a meeting on 01 August 2023.

A document, titled “Channel Names, Topics, and Descriptions” was posted to the general channel on FB-ISAO Slack. The document should be used as a guide for sharing information as well as for looking for information shared. Members should note that some channels were added, others renamed while some channels were rolled up into other channels. A link to the recording of the 01 August 2023 meeting on the PIR was also shared with all members. The TLP:AMBER recording is available on our Slack workspace. Write to [membership@faithbased-isao.org](mailto:membership@faithbased-isao.org) with any questions.