TLP:CLEAR

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 "ELEVATED." As per FB-ISAO's definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, "ELEVATED" means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but there is a concern that an event is more likely than normal.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:
Elevated

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as "ELEVATED." As per FB-ISAO's definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, "ELEVATED" means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but there is a concern that an event is more likely than normal.

Stories

FB-ISAO Newsletter

FB-ISAO Raises the Threat Level

In fulfilling the part of the mission that addresses reducing risk and enhancing preparedness, FB-ISAO sets its own threat level based on potential and adverse threats and events that can affect the Faith-Based Community. Over the month, there has been a marked escalation in the number and severity of incidents around the world stemming from the Israeli-Hamas conflict. With reflection of the current escalation and other considerations, the FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Intelligence, Operational Resilience (together, the Threat and Incident Response) working groups determined to move both the Physical and Cyber Threat Levels to **"ELEVATED"** at this time on both the physical and cyber fronts. This means that FB-ISAO is **unaware of any specific threats**, but there is **concern that an event is more likely than normal.**

Physical Threat Level: ELEVATED

ELEVATED

Cyber Threat Level: ELEVATED

ELEVATED

In preparing the change, FB-ISAO notes concern over the general widespread acts of faith-based hostilities and open threats to faith-based organizations based on their religious and political beliefs – (including antisemitism, islamophobia, anti-Christian, and anti-Sikh sentiment, etc.) that could result in:

➤ Telephonic, mail, or online threats of violence
➤ Protests and demonstrations
➤ Harassment
➤ Arson
➤ Vandalism
➤ Low-level attacks including Swatting and bomb threats.
➤ Cyberattacks including website defacements, Business Email Compromise (BEC), ransomware and other threats.

FB-ISAO will continue to closely monitor events and threats and if we assess that there is a high likelihood of a physical or cyber threat, or if we see a decrease in tensions, we will make appropriate revisions to this threat assessment. Members are encouraged to consider their local event awareness and coordination with local law enforcement, neighboring organizations, and even with event organizers. For international awareness, members may reference recent US Department of State updates including:

➤ Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Travel Advisory
➤ Information for U.S. Citizens in the Middle East
➤ Worldwide Caution

Learn about the FB-ISAO Threat Levels and read the entire October 2023 Threat Level Statement.

Security Considerations for Houses of Worship

This year CISA published Protecting Houses of Worship: Perimeter Security Considerations which is a companion piece to CISA's and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) co-branded Protecting Places of Worship: Six Steps to Enhance Security Fact Sheet, which highlighted understanding the Risk, understanding your space, developing and practicing a plan, informing and educating greeters, pursuing grants, and reporting hate crimes and other incidents. The infographic outlines low- to no-cost solutions to help implement these suggested practices and highlights ways to identify funding for security improvements and it also talks about layers of perimeter defense. The key is "extending the perimeter" so that threats actors encounter a physical security "defense in depth" with three perimeter layers.

☞ Inner Perimeter. This area includes the main and outbuildings interiors. Some key considerations include Access Control, access to First Aid/AED, and maintaining situational awareness.

☞ Middle Perimeter. The middle perimeter is the fluid area that includes anything on property but outside the main building. Some key considerations include stationing security team members beyond the building's front doors, procedures for identifying visitors, provisions for emergency communication.

☞ Outer Perimeter. The outer perimeter area includes surface parking and outline of primary and outbuildings at the property border. Key considerations use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV,) Lighting, and Traffic Management.

The FB-ISAO Weekly Security Advisory dated 28 September 2023 goes into greater detail. If you are not a member, join now!

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

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

Office Hours. *(Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.)*	🌳 28 November at 1:00pm ET
2023 Educational Series: A Culture of Security	06 December at 12:00pm ET
Community Meeting	14 December at 12:00pm ET

Spotlight: The Nonprofit Security Grant

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides funding for target hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack. The intent is to incorporate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. It is also designed to promote coordination and collaboration in emergency preparedness activities among public and private community stakeholders as well as state and local government partners. **The time to start preparing for the next cycle of funding is NOW.**

✓ How to apply.
✓ Write to FEMA-NSGP@fema.dhs.gov to receive more information about the NSGP.
✓ Visit the CISA website to find resources to help improve the security of an organization's congregants and facilities.