

# Volume 6, Issue 8

August 2024

**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.

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# FB-ISAO Newsletter

## Ransom-what? Ransomware!



We just published our mid-year report on ransomware incidents for the Faith-Based and Non-Profit Community. The report tabulates **40** ransomware incidents from

January 2024 to July (end) 2024! These ransomware incidents are not only highlighting just how vulnerable faith-based organizations and charities are to this type of cyberattack, but these incidents also demonstrate threat actors’ interest in targeting organizations that are often less prepared for a cyber incident and the perception that they may be more willing to pay the ransom.

➤ **An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.** FB-ISAO urges members to heed these reports and begin delegating resources for cyber-related incidents, including ransomware, ahead of time. There are low-cost, reliable solutions for maintaining current and stable backups, which is the best way to recover from a ransomware infection when it happens without paying the ransom.

➤ **Plan for the worst, hope for the best.** Budgeting is important but providing awareness of and planning for these threats with your staff does not cost any money and offers huge benefits. Reminding staff of the latest threats, such as phishing, keeps the topic on their mind and can help when encountering a potentially suspicious situation. This habit also fosters a security-aware workplace.

➤ **We are stronger together.** FB-ISAO recommends all organizations be proactive in preparing for a ransomware incident by searching for resources and collaborating with peers and other partners. Resources, such as KnowBe4’s [Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual](#), have information to help you prevent infections and how to recover when you are hit with ransomware. The rescue manual explores ways you may be able to potentially recover files even if you did not have a backup and includes a Ransomware Attack Response Checklist and a Ransomware Prevention Checklist. Similarly, reaching out to local peers and information sharing organizations, including [FB-ISAO](#), can provide a vast network that offers hard-won knowledge and experience when facing a cyberattack. Depending on the relationship, some partners may be able to provide resources such as educational materials or temporary staff during a crisis.

Below are a few resilience resources from our [blog library](#).

- ➔ [What We Learned About Ransomware Resilience](#)
- ➔ [Ransomware ‘Name and Shame’ Explainer for FB-ISAO](#)
- ➔ [Say No to Ransomware - Have a Plan!](#)

## FB-ISAO Advisory Board

### Get to Know the Board of Advisors

### Contact Us

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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

Visit the [events page](#) for a complete listing of FB-ISAO events.



## Goodbye Summer Camp and Hello School!

Oh, the excitement as little'uns shop for their school supplies and big'uns shop for their college dorms. As schools prepare to open their doors again to their communities big or small, safety and security are always on top of the mind. SchoolSafety.gov launched the 2024 [Back-to-School Campaign](#) to help prepare for a safe return to school. The campaign is focused on providing a range of resources and actions K-12 communities can consider as they aim to create and sustain safe environments this school year and beyond. [You can learn more about the campaign here.](#)

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is hosting a [2024 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#), scheduled to take place on September 25 and 26, 2024. The virtual Summit brings together K-12 school leaders and practitioners to explore recommendations that enhance safe learning environments. The Summit will include sessions on violence prevention, emergency planning, youth online safety, student mental wellness, K-12 cybersecurity and others. [Registration is required.](#)

In addition to the Summit, the following events are available to the school community:

- [Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities](#)
- [Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment](#)

Lastly, below are some resources from the FB-ISAO resource library.

- [DHS: School Safety and Security](#)
- [CISA: K-12 School Security Guide Suite](#)
- [CISA: Protecting Our Future - Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats Toolkit](#)
- [U.S. Secret Service: Averting Targeted School Violence](#)
- [FBI: In The Aftermath](#)
- [Everytown Research: Keeping Our Schools Safe](#)



## Spotlight: Great Time to Join FB-ISAO

Are you curious about all that FB-ISAO has to offer?

Great! Below are three ways to find out more about this amazing community of force multipliers.

- ▶ Join an [FB-ISAO 101](#) session on 21 August at 2:00pm ET.
- ▶ Take advantage of our membership sale (\$50.) Sign-up by August 30 for membership benefits that last through December 2024. The summer sale provides the community a way to experience our membership before making a commitment for a whole year. [Sign-up Now.](#)
- ▶ Want to gain access to our extensive recording library? We recently developed a membership program just for that. Though this program doesn't provide full membership privileges, the program will provide access to the many recordings available which includes the recordings of the [FireArms in the House](#) series. [Sign-up here.](#)