

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2025

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

Recent Incidents of Surveillance, Page 1

Updated Grants Guidance, Page 2

SPOTLIGHT: Resources Available on the FB-ISAO Website, Page 2

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

Recent Incidents of Surveillance

Since the start of the year FB-ISAO members have reported suspicious activities that may be an indicator of surveillance activities.

- On 15 January, there was suspicious activity involving the probing of security and photography at two separate churches in Fairfax County, VA. In one instance, three men entered the buildings and began to take pictures.
- On 25 January, a church in the Seattle area was visited by persons that appeared to be gathering pictures, video and information about live streaming.
- On 12 January, three Middle Eastern males entered the private property of a mega-church located in Irvine, California.
- On 30 January, a suspicious man was seen reportedly canvassing a DC Jewish school.
- On 02 February, a Catholic church in Seattle observed that a male was seen in a service paying attention to the surroundings. He was seen and photographed by a security professional (not part of the security team) who was concerned by his actions. No other information is available.

Surveillance is a key piece of pre-attack planning for threat actors and as such there are several key principles for organizations that include:



- Know the Threat.
- Increase Employee Awareness on the Security and Incident Response Plan.
- Minimize information available to the public.
- Training / Rehearsals / Exercises.
- Employ Random Active Measures.

It is important to note that Ramadan began the evening of 28 February and continues through 29 March. Previous analysis has shown that there is no clear evidence that supports threat actors initiate attacks solely based on the holiday event, but it also cannot be ruled out. Holiday Events and religious commemorations are periods in which organizations are encouraged to be vigilant as the changing threat environment and geo-political situations can change and enhance the threat. [The Investigative Project on Terrorism](#), notes "Holidays are often chosen because they are 'optimal attack days,' in terms of gathering large crowds into soft targets like houses of worship, religious markets, ceremonial gatherings, and parades."

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

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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

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



Updated Grants Guidance

On 28 February 2025, FEMA sent a message titled, “Message to Grant Recipients on Manual Review Process.” Below are some excerpts from the message sent. The content of the message was shared in the #grants channel on FB-ISAO Slack.

In accordance with this direction, FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are instituting additional reviews on all grant payments and obligations to ensure allowability, as permitted by 2 C.F.R Part 200.

Effective immediately, FEMA and DHS are conducting additional reviews of allocations before releasing funds for all grants. These actions will ensure that funding is obligated and disbursed in line with the Secretary’s direction so that we can continue to support and prioritize communities and disaster survivors who rely on FEMA for assistance.

- Will this disbursement go to any subrecipients, and if so, which ones?
- What is the total amount of funds going to each subrecipient?
- What activities will be funded by this disbursement?
- What is the time period covered by this payment request?



Spotlight: Resources Available on the FB-ISAO Website

Our website is where the community can find multiple resources to help reduce risk while enhancing preparedness, security, and resilience. The best part? These resources are all FREE.

- Our blog site hosts our Daily Awareness Post (DAP) which is our daily product. The DAP contains two parts; the Faith-Based Security Headlines which are high level stories or events. Those headlines include analyst comments which help the community understand why the item is important. The second part is a run-down of open-source news headlines from the past twenty-four hours of reporting. The blog site can be accessed [here](#).
 - The resource library provides a listing of resources broken down topically as follows:
 - ▶ Securing Facilities and People
 - ▶ Securing School Facilities and Students
 - ▶ Protecting Digital Assets
 - ▶ Protecting from Health Threats and Natural Hazards
 - ▶ Informing Preparedness Activities
- The resource library is available [here](#).