

TLP: CLEAR

[FB-ISAQ Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAQ Physical Threat Level: SEVERE

FB-ISAQ Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations: "SEVERE."

FB-ISAQ's definition of the Physical Threat Level, "SEVERE" means FB-ISAQ is unaware of any specific events. Still, there is a concern that an event is highly likely.

FB-ISAQ Cyber Threat Level: ELEVATED

FB-ISAQ has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as "ELEVATED."

FB-ISAQ's definition of the Cyber Threat Levels, "ELEVATED" means FB-ISAQ is unaware of any specific events. Still, there is a concern that an event is more likely than normal.

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Cyber Costs are Rising: What Faith-Based Organizations Should Know



For houses of worship and other faith-based organizations, cyber incidents are no longer just a technical concern; they are a ministry continuity concern. Verizon's 2026 Breach Impact Study reviewed nearly 70,000 U.S. cyber insurance claims and found that the median financial impact of a cyber incident rose from about \$60,000 in 2019 to about \$110,000 in 2024. For many houses of worship, faith-based nonprofits, schools, and community-serving ministries, a loss of that size could affect payroll, giving, worship services, outreach programs, facility operations, and community trust.

The study shows that cyber losses often include much more than stolen data. Costs can come from business interruption, incident response, restoration work, legal support, extortion, vendor disruption, liability, and reputational damage.

Why this matters for ministry leaders. Business interruption was one of the biggest loss drivers in the Verizon study. If email, giving systems, scheduling tools, building access, records, or a key vendor portal were unavailable for several days, ministry leaders would still need to communicate with members, care for people, process essential payments, protect sensitive information, and continue core services. **Cyber readiness is therefore part of stewardship:** preparing wisely so the organization can keep serving when technology fails.

House of Worship Cybersecurity Officer. A designated cybersecurity lead can help churches move from reactive security practices to proactive risk management through regular awareness training, phishing simulations, incident response planning, and vendor oversight. Even smaller congregations can strengthen resilience by assigning cybersecurity responsibilities to a trusted staff member or qualified volunteer.

Mitigations

- Review cyber insurance coverage, including business interruption, deductibles, sub limits, required notifications, and approved response vendors.
- Identify who can make emergency decisions, contact insurance, engage IT support, approve spending, and communicate with members.
- Test backups and restoration procedures. Keep offline copies of key contacts and essential records.
- Use dual approval and out-of-band verification for payment changes, wire transfers, payroll updates, refund requests, and urgent financial activity.

Public Health Readiness for Faith-Based Organizations



Faith-based organizations continue to serve as trusted gathering places for worship, education, outreach, care, and community support. Recent public health developments are a reminder that churches, synagogues, mosques, ministries, schools, camps, food programs, and nonprofits should maintain simple readiness plans for illness, travel-related exposures, animal health concerns, and possible operational disruptions.

What to watch

- **Respiratory illness:** COVID-19, flu, RSV, and other respiratory viruses can affect staffing, volunteer availability, worship services, classrooms, and community events.
- **Measles:** Outbreak activity remains important for ministries serving children, schools, childcare, camps, large gatherings, and mixed-age communities.
- **International health concerns:** Ebola activity overseas is currently a low risk to most U.S. communities, but it matters for mission trips, humanitarian work, international visitors, and global partners.
- **Animal health issues:** New World screwworm detections in Texas are mainly an animal and agriculture concern but may affect rural ministries, camps, outdoor programs, service animals, livestock, or wildlife exposure.

Why it matters for ministry. Public health events can disrupt ministry before they become a direct medical emergency. A localized illness surge, exposure notice, travel concern, or animal health alert may affect worship schedules, childcare, school operations, volunteer teams, food distribution, facility cleaning, transportation, and communication with members or families.

Mitigations. Consider refreshing basic continuity and communication plans before a public health concern affects operations.

- Monitor trusted sources
- Encourage healthy practices
- Prepare for absences
- Plan for exposure notices
- Review travel and mission plans
- Communicate calmly

Spotlight: FB-ISAO's 2025 Threat Data Report

During July, FB-ISAO members had the opportunity to get the first look at **FB-ISAO's 2025 Threat Data Report**. In a member produced webinar, the Co-Chairs of the Operational Resilience Group (ORG) and Cyber Threat Intelligence Group (CTIG) joined forces to deliver findings on physical and cyber threat data on attacks and incidents impacting churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other houses of worship during 2025. If you missed the webinar, members* have access through our Slack Workspace. Additionally, while the webinar was a sneak peek, there will be a comprehensive report to follow.

Become a member* and you can get access too! Read about membership details here: <https://faithbased-isao.org/membership-details/>

**Full member benefits, including webinars and reports, are available to Individual, Enterprise, and Government Partner members. Mailing list/ Subscribers receive our general updates and may join as full members anytime.*

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