

TLP: CLEAR

[FB-ISA Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISA Physical Threat Level: SEVERE

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

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

FB-ISA Cyber Threat Level: ELEVATED

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

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

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Keeping the Doors Open: Why Water Utility Cyber Risk Matters for Houses of Worship



Recent cyber activity affecting water and wastewater systems underscores how disruption to [critical lifeline infrastructure](#) can quickly create operational, public health, and continuity challenges beyond the directly targeted utility. In late July, Minnesota reported cyber attacks against the operational technology devices at more than 30 community water systems.

[FEMA lists Water Systems as a Community Lifeline](#) covering potable water infrastructure and wastewater management. That framing turns water and wastewater systems from a background utility into a mission dependency.

Why this matters for ministry leaders. For FB-ISA members, cyber threats to local water and wastewater utilities matter because faith-based organizations depend on those services to operate and serve their communities. An attack on a nearby utility could disrupt water availability, wastewater service, or pressure reliability.

Those disruptions can affect worship services, schools, childcare, food service, shelters, outreach events, and emergency-response activities. They can also undermine public confidence during an incident. For that reason, water-sector cyber incidents should be considered a continuity-planning concern, not only a cybersecurity concern.

Mitigation. Review water dependency plans, validate facility technology exposure, confirm utility notification paths, and identify who can change facility operations during a disruption. Prepare short internal and public messages for boil water notices, restroom limitations, canceled events, or temporary facility closures.

- **Create and Review Water Dependency Plans.** Identify how a water outage, pressure loss, boil water notice, or wastewater disruption would affect operations and events.
- **Validate Facility Technology Exposure.** Ask facilities teams, Managed Service Providers (MSPs), and building automation vendors whether any Operational Technology, control systems, fire systems, or remote access tools are directly exposed to the internet.
- **Strengthen Lifeline Disruption-specific Communications.** Prepare simple message templates for staff, volunteers, congregants, families, and visitors when water service or other infrastructure conditions affect operations.
- **Coordinate with Local Partners.** Identify points of contact with local utilities, emergency management, public health, and law enforcement before a critical infrastructure incident affects facility operations.

AI-Enabled Threats and Converged Security Risk Concerns for Houses of Worship



[The Gate 15 Interview, EP 73](#) features Andy Jabbour speaking with Joshua Obstfeld, FBI Counterintelligence Senior Executive for External Engagement, about artificial intelligence, cybercrime, AI swarms, the race for AI dominance, and public-private partnership. For FB-ISAO members, the key concern is that AI can compress the timeline from gathering information about an organization to identifying a person or facility of interest and then enabling cyber attacks, fraud, or physical-security threats.

A threat actor can use public information to make social engineering more convincing, identify who to contact, or understand a facility before staff see a clear warning sign. That creates a blended risk environment because the same campaign may begin with online research, move through trusted communication channels, and then impact physical access or operations.

Why this matters for ministry leaders. AI-enabled threats are relevant because Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) often rely on openness, trust, and public communication. FBOs may publish schedules, staff names, and event details because that is part of normal community engagement. An adversary can use that same information to build a more believable message, phone call, or access request.

Physical Security Crossover. AI risk now reaches the physical environment through reconnaissance, impersonation, and disruption in preparation for hostile events. The podcast's discussion of AI swarms gives members a reason to think about how automation could affect facilities and public gathering environments.

Mitigation. Members can use AI-enabled threat planning to strengthen human, technical, and physical decision points where adversaries are most likely to exploit trust, speed, or confusion.

- Map Converged Risk Points
- Review Publicly Available Information
- Exercise AI-Enabled Scenarios
- Formalize External Partnerships

Spotlight: Beyond the Newsletter

Enjoy these articles? This newsletter delivers timely highlights, but an **Individual Membership** gives you the fuller picture.

As an individual member, you can deepen your awareness with expanded analysis, more detailed threat reporting, member-driven webinars, and greater access to the FB-ISAO community that helps turn information into informed action. From clergy and safety teams to facilities, operations, technology, and children's ministry leaders, Individual Membership delivers the awareness needed to make informed decisions.

Level up to an Individual Membership today for more comprehensive reporting and deeper analysis. The practical insight and intelligence will help you stay informed, prepared, and ahead of what matters.

Read more about FB-ISAO membership levels here: <https://faithbased-isao.org/membership-details/>

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