

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.

[Board of Directors](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

[How to join](#)

[Join FB-ISA Slack Channel](#)

[FB-ISA Events page](#)

Flock Cameras, Privacy, and Congregational Concerns



As communities consider adopting automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras, including Flock Safety systems, faith leaders are being asked to think carefully about both safety and stewardship. This technology may support community security and investigations, but they also raise important questions about privacy, transparency, data access, and public trust. For churches, synagogues, mosques, ministries, schools, and faith-based nonprofits, the challenge is practical and pastoral: protecting people while honoring dignity, accountability, and the sacred trust of those who gather for worship, service, counseling, education, and outreach.

Why this matters for ministry leaders. Houses of worship are called to be places of welcome, refuge, and care. Cameras near entrances, parking areas, childcare spaces, counseling offices, or community events may strengthen situational awareness, but they can also cause concern if congregants do not understand how information is collected or used. Ministry leaders should be ready to explain how security practices support safety, protect the vulnerable, and reflect the organization's values. A prayerful, practical conversation now can strengthen preparedness, reduce confusion, and demonstrate faithful care for the congregation and the wider community.

Key concerns for faith communities. The growing deployment of Flock Safety and similar cameras has generated increased attention around ALPR technology, particularly regarding privacy, surveillance, data retention, and access to vehicle-location information.

- **Privacy and trust.** ALPR systems may capture vehicles connected to worship services, counseling, outreach programs, childcare, or community gatherings.
- **Community concerns.** Public debate over Flock and similar systems has included concerns about surveillance, police access, data sharing, civil liberties, and reported misuse.
- **Physical security risk.** Damage to exterior cameras may reduce visibility around entrances, parking lots, access points, and gathering spaces at the exact time leaders may need situational awareness most.

Mitigation. The goal is to balance safety objectives with responsible data practices, congregational trust, and operational resilience. In doing so, consider the following:

- Map nearby surveillance and related technology
- Clarify data ownership, access, retention, and sharing responsibilities
- Prepare a clear pastoral and congregational explanation
- Reduce the risk of tampering, misuse, or unauthorized access
- Plan for outages, incidents, and other operational disruptions



Building a Cybersecurity Culture That Serves the Mission

October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a timely reminder that protecting people, information, and ministry operations is part of faithful stewardship. This year, the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) and CISA are encouraging organizations to strengthen everyday cyber practices as threats grow faster and smarter, including risks accelerated by artificial intelligence. For faith-based organizations, that message is especially practical: houses of worship, charities, schools, etc. rely on trust, generosity, volunteers, and digital tools every day. A stronger security culture helps protect the people we serve, the resources entrusted to us, and the witness of the organization.

Why this matters for ministry leaders. Cybersecurity is not separate from ministry; it is one way leaders care for the flock, steward entrusted resources, and preserve the ability to serve. A healthy security culture reminds people that reporting concerns is responsible, asking questions is welcome, and protecting information is part of loving our neighbors well.

- **Trust is both a gift and a target.** Attackers exploit trusted names, urgent requests, compassion, and generosity. A convincing message that appears to come from a pastor, executive director, finance lead, or ministry partner can result in fraud, data exposure, or disruption.
- **Culture cannot be built once a year.** Secure behavior grows through repeated reminders, leadership example, and safe reporting. Ministry leaders set the tone when they treat cybersecurity as care for people.
- **AI adds new stewardship questions.** Leaders should clarify which AI tools are approved, what information must never be entered, and where human review is required.

Mitigation. Ministries can make meaningful progress without overwhelming staff or volunteers. The goal is to weave security into normal rhythms of discipleship, administration, care, and service.

- Start with mission-critical risks
- Normalize "pause and verify"
- Use short, steady reminders
- Clarify AI boundaries
- Lead by example

Spotlight: Unlock the Fuller Picture

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/>

Thank you for sharing this newsletter with a friend!