



November 3, 2022

Dear California Jewish Community:

Today, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued a notification to Homeland Security and law enforcement partners nationwide, of an unspecified, but credible threat to Synagogues in New Jersey. While there is currently no information to suggest that this specific threat extends to Synagogues or houses of worship in California, we all recognize increases in anti-Semitic rhetoric and threats of violence against Jewish Communities in California and across the United States in the aftermath of recent attacks and disrupted plots.

I would like to take the opportunity to reassure the California-based Jewish Community that the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)—in coordination with our California State Threat Assessment System (STAS), as well as the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and the National Counterterrorism Center — continue to monitor the situation and remain actively engaged with state, local, and federal law enforcement and the intelligence community to ensure the safety of all Californians.

I would like to encourage that security teams at your synagogues, houses of worship and/or within your respective communities to remain vigilant and attentive to threats or other unusual circumstances. Please take the time now to review your emergency and security plans, as well as the latest threat information and/or threat actor tactics. If you see something, say something. You can leverage California's Homeland Security architecture by reporting suspicious activity to your local law enforcement or regional fusion center.

Further, the FBI has helpful resources available to assist houses of worship on emergency and security planning at the following link: [Developing Emergency Plans for Houses of Worship, Active Shooter](#). As well, the Cal OES Web Site, www.caloes.ca.gov has a lot of relevant information available to you or your organization on safety, security, threat assessment and emergency planning.



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Cal OES maintains strong relationships with our law enforcement and intelligence partners within California, across the nation and around the world and is continually monitoring for possible emerging threats to the state. As well, we are working to assist private sector security partners to effectively recognize, deter, prevent, preempt, and, as necessary, respond to incidents of hate and other threats. While we understand that this sustained threat environment creates a sense of unease, spending time now to review plans, enhance or ensure that security procedures are in place, exercising those plans and continue to remain vigilant will help to amplify preparedness and awareness.

As conditions change, or in the event that any specific threats emerge to synagogues or places of worship in California, we will provide additional information, alerts or bulletins. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can assist you or your organization in planning or preparedness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Ghilarducci", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark S. Ghilarducci
Director
Governor's Homeland Security Advisor