

FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED

Soft Target Security Brief: Practitioner Edition

09 MAY 2026 | Vol. 1, Issue 4 | What You Need to Know Right Now

PREP-CON 3: ELEVATED
General preparedness posture elevated

**GRADUATION SEASON:
 ACTIVE**
Mass gatherings, named threats, peak window

COMCON 4: WATCH
Monitor backup comms channels

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

Three things change your security calculus right now:

1. **Two arrests on 23 April disrupted a vehicle-ramming plot against Congregation Beth Israel and the Shlenker School in Houston.** An 18-year-old North Carolina woman, Angelina Han Hicks, and a 16-year-old Houston co-conspirator planned to **drive a vehicle through a Jewish congregation to kill as many Jews as possible**. The Houston DA assessed an imminent attack risk despite warrants citing a 2028 date. The plot replicates the West Bloomfield template seven weeks later. The vehicle-ramming method against soft targets is now confirmed in two US synagogue plots in seven weeks.
2. **The UK has raised its national threat level to SEVERE and is hardening synagogues against gas and chemical attack.** After the 29 April Golders Green stabbing and a six-week London arson and firebombing campaign, UK authorities are sealing synagogue doors and windows and pre-positioning chemical exposure kits and bleeding-control gear. The Iran-linked HAYI front group has claimed attacks across six European countries. **Same actor set views US Christian and Jewish institutions as part of the same Western target list.**
3. **Graduation season is the peak soft-target window through end of May.** NC State holds spring commencement TODAY at Carter-Finley Stadium under heightened security after a 23 April arrest of a man who threatened on social media to shoot the Duke Energy CEO during the address. The plot is a single-actor template that propagates across other commencement venues every weekend through end of month. Grievance-driven threats spike in May; built-up frustrations meet large publicized crowds at fixed times.

SOURCE: [DOJ / Davidson Co. Sheriff: Hicks Conspiracy](#) · [Wikipedia: 2026 London Antisemitic Attacks](#) · [TIME: UK Threat Level SEVERE](#) · [WRAL: NC State Commencement Threat](#)

CURRENT ACTIVE THREATS: MAY 2026




THREAT	STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS · SOURCES
Vehicle-Ramming Synagogue Plot Disrupted <i>Houston, TX Arrests 23 April 2026</i>	PRE-ATTACK DISRUPTION	SIZE: Three named co-conspirators, two arrested. Conspiracy to kill as many Jews as possible by driving through a congregation. Plot targeted Congregation Beth Israel and the on-site Shlenker School (preschool through fifth grade).

THREAT	STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS · SOURCES
		<p>ACTIVITY: 18-year-old Angelina Han Hicks (Lexington NC) and a 16-year-old Houston co-conspirator arrested. Davidson County DA Alan Martin assessed concern of an imminent event despite warrant citing 2028 date. Beth Israel and Shlenker School closed 22 April out of an abundance of caution.</p> <p>LOCATION: Beth Israel, oldest synagogue in Texas, founded 1850s. Shlenker School operates on the same campus.</p> <p>TIME: Arrests 22-23 April 2026. Hicks held on \$10M bond. Next hearing 13 May. Houston minor charged with conspiracy to commit capital murder.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Vehicle-ramming attack template, replicating the West Bloomfield Temple Israel attack of 12 March.</p> <p>UNIT: FBI Charlotte JTTF (lead), FBI Houston, Davidson County Sheriff, Houston PD Major Offenders, Alief ISD Police.</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: Vehicle-ramming against synagogues is now confirmed as an active US attack template, employed once (West Bloomfield 12 March) and planned twice (Houston, disrupted 23 April) within seven weeks. Any Jewish facility without effective vehicle standoff at the main entrance is operating outside the current threat baseline.</p> <p>ABC11: Hicks Charging Detail · NPR: Houston Synagogue Plot · Jewish Insider: Planned Ramming Attack</p>
<p>UK Threat Level SEVERE: CBR Hardening <i>United Kingdom Active 30 April 2026</i></p>	<p>FOREIGN PRECURSOR</p>	<p>SIZE: National threat level raised from SUBSTANTIAL to SEVERE on 30 April. Six-week campaign of arson, firebombing, and stabbing across London Jewish institutions. 27 arrests through early May. UK government formally declared antisemitism an emergency.</p> <p>ACTIVITY: 29 April Golders Green double stabbing (terrorist incident, Counter Terrorism Policing lead). 19 April Kenton United Synagogue accelerant attack. 19 April Watford shop arson. 23 March Hatzolah ambulance arson. 27 April Golders Green Iran-protester memorial arson. 12 April attempted Skopje synagogue arson (North Macedonia).</p> <p>LOCATION: London (multiple boroughs); North Macedonia, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands have all seen claimed attacks by the same actor. UK synagogues now sealing doors and windows and stockpiling chemical exposure kits per the 1 May Evening Standard reporting.</p> <p>TIME: Campaign March through 30 April. UK SEVERE level remains in effect; no expiration set. US travel advisory remains Level 2 for UK.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Knife (Golders Green), accelerant bottles, vehicle (assault), arson devices. Hardening posture indicates UK intelligence assesses chemical or biological attack on a Western soft target as plausible before end-2026.</p> <p>UNIT: Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamia (HAYI), Iran IRGC front per UK and Israeli analysis. IRGC outsources attacks to local criminals (Met Police DCI Matt Jukes: thugs for hire).</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: When a Western government starts sealing synagogue buildings against gas attack and stockpiling chemical exposure gear, it is positioning for an incident it assesses can happen. The same IRGC-linked network is operational in the US. American Christian institutions that are visibly pro-Israel sit on the same target list as Jewish institutions, per UK and Israeli analysis.</p> <p>Wikipedia: 2026 London Antisemitic Attacks · Wikipedia: 2026 Golders Green Attack · TIME, UK Threat Level SEVERE</p>
<p>Commencement Targeted-Threat Pattern</p>	<p>MITIGATED ACTIVE WINDOW</p>	<p>SIZE: Single subject, named target, public venue. NC State Spring 2026 Commencement holds at Carter-Finley Stadium today, 09 May, with more than 7,400 graduates and an estimated tens of thousands of guests.</p>

THREAT	STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS · SOURCES
<p>Raleigh, NC NC State 09 May (TODAY)</p>		<p>ACTIVITY: 24-year-old Luke Archer Hoover of Pinehurst NC arrested Monday 28 April after social media threats to shoot the named commencement speaker (Duke Energy CEO Harry Sideris) at Carter-Finley Stadium. Charge: felony communicating a threat of mass violence on educational property. Bond \$150K.</p> <p>LOCATION: NC State Carter-Finley Stadium today. Same threat template applies to every named commencement speaker at every large outdoor stadium ceremony through end of May.</p> <p>TIME: 09 May NC State; 14 May SDSU and other universities; 27-29 May MIT; weekend after weekend through end of month. Spring grievance peak per National School Safety and Security Services (Ken Trump): May concentrates built-up grievances and large publicized crowds.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Hoover threat involved firearm; method not specific. Commencement venues universally now applying clear-bag policies, hand-wand screening, prohibited-item lists. NC State and Duke confirm searches at entry. UNC clear-bag policy in effect.</p> <p>UNIT: NC State University Police Department (lead), Raleigh PD, Wake County DA. Hoover was on probation at time of arrest from prior larceny convictions.</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: Public visibility of the speaker creates the threat surface. Any commencement with a named CEO, politician, or controversial figure as a speaker is in the threat footprint through end of May. Stadium ceremonies must enforce the published bag policy at every entry, not just at the main gate.</p> <p>WRAL: NC State Threat Arrest · WRAL: Heightened Graduation Security · NC State News: Class of 2026</p>
<p>Commercial Property: Targeted Workplace Violence</p> <p>Carrollton, TX 05 May 2026</p>	<p>OCCURRED 4 DAYS AGO</p>	<p>SIZE: Five shot, two killed, three wounded across two scenes by a single shooter. Two-scene event: shopping plaza shooting and apartment-complex shooting four miles apart, same shooter.</p> <p>ACTIVITY: 69-year-old Seung Ho Han walked into K Towne Plaza (Korean shopping center) at approximately 10:00 a.m. and shot four people during a scheduled meeting over a \$75,000 business dispute. Han then drove to an apartment complex four miles away and killed a fifth victim. Apprehended after a foot pursuit. Han told detectives he intended suicide after the attack.</p> <p>LOCATION: K Towne Plaza, Highway 121 and Hebron Road, Carrollton TX (Koreatown business district 20 miles north of Dallas, ~4,000 Korean American residents). H-Mart fish market identified as a stop in his stated plan.</p> <p>TIME: 05 May 2026 approximately 10:00 a.m. through afternoon. Both scenes inside one operational window.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Firearm (specific model not released). Targeted workplace and partnership violence; no terrorism nexus identified.</p> <p>UNIT: Carrollton PD (lead, Chief Roberto Arredondo), FBI present at scene, ATF involvement reported, capital murder charge filed.</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: This was not random; it was a scheduled business meeting that became a planned mass shooting. Strip-mall and shopping-center tenants are not protected by the public-event security models being widely discussed. The risk vector is the dispute calendar, not the holiday calendar. Any property manager hosting tenant disputes, evictions, or financial settlements should be screening visitors and providing duress-call procedures.</p> <p>Texas Tribune: Carrollton Shooting · FOX 4: Carrollton Suspect Motive · ABC News: Carrollton Two-Scene Event</p>

THREAT	STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS · SOURCES
<p>Off-Hours Shooting on School Grounds <i>Grand Rapids, MI 05 May 2026</i></p>	<p>OCCURRED 4 DAYS AGO</p>	<p>SIZE: Two killed (15-year-old Jeremiah Cuevas-Griffin and 38-year-old Savannah Rubio, mother of seven). Multiple juvenile witnesses present. Nine bullet casings recovered.</p> <p>ACTIVITY: Group of children playing soccer on Southwest Elementary School grounds approximately 6:30 p.m. (after dismissal). 18-year-old Rafael Martinez-Lopez approached, asked to play, was turned away, drew a firearm, shot the teen and Rubio when she tried to intervene.</p> <p>LOCATION: Southwest Elementary School, Oakland Avenue SW and Rumsey Street, Grand Rapids (Roosevelt Park area). On school property after hours, not connected to school activity.</p> <p>TIME: 05 May 2026 approximately 6:30 p.m. Southwest Elementary and Southwest Middle High closed Wed and Thu. Suspect arraigned 08 May.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Firearm; nine casings on scene; bullet recovered from a nearby home (over-shoot). Cell-phone video and surveillance camera footage recovered.</p> <p>UNIT: Grand Rapids PD (lead, Interim Chief Joe Trigg). Charges: two counts open murder, two felony firearm, three additional weapons charges.</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: School grounds remain a soft target after the bell. Open campuses, playgrounds, and athletic fields used by neighborhood children outside school hours are not protected by the school district's daytime security model. If your school property is in continuous community use, your security posture cannot end at dismissal.</p> <p>WOOD TV: Grand Rapids Shooting · FOX 17: Suspect Arraignment · Education Week: School Shooting Tracker</p>
<p>Vehicle Ramming: Houses of Worship <i>Confirmed Active Method</i></p>	<p>ACTIVE THREAT METHOD</p>	<p>SIZE: One executed attack (West Bloomfield 12 March) plus one disrupted plot (Houston 23 April) using identical vehicle-ramming template within seven weeks. Pattern is the method of choice in both Hezbollah-inspired (Ghazali) and self-radicalized (Hicks) actors.</p> <p>ACTIVITY: Vehicle driven through main entrance to breach the building envelope; in Ghazali case, vehicle loaded with fireworks and gasoline cans; in Hicks plot, vehicle driven through the congregation to maximize casualties. Both targets are synagogues with on-site schools.</p> <p>LOCATION: West Bloomfield MI Temple Israel, child education center 140 students at time of attack. Houston Beth Israel, Shlenker School preschool through grade 5.</p> <p>TIME: West Bloomfield 12 March 2026; Houston plot disrupted 23 April 2026. Method remains current.</p> <p>EQUIPMENT: Pickup truck (Ford F-150 in Ghazali case). Standoff-distance failure is the common factor. Bollards, jersey barriers, planter walls, and active gate vehicle interdiction are the practical countermeasures.</p> <p>UNIT: Method is not group-specific; it is publicly modeled, low-skill, high-yield. CISA published a Vehicle Ramming Attack Resource Guide; assume any attacker with access to a vehicle has read it or its mirrors.</p> <p>BOTTOM LINE: If a vehicle can reach your main entrance at speed, that is your highest-priority unaddressed vulnerability. Bollards and jersey barriers are life-safety infrastructure, not aesthetic concerns. Two synagogue cases in seven weeks is a pattern, not an outlier.</p> <p>Wikipedia: 2026 Michigan Synagogue Attack · CISA: Vehicle Ramming Resource Guide · Valortec: Synagogue Soft-Target Failures</p>

WHAT TO DO NOW: BY SECURITY ROLE

 HOUSE OF WORSHIP	 SCHOOL & CAMPUS	 COMMERCIAL / EVENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ VEHICLE STANDOFF, TODAY. Two US synagogue plots in seven weeks used the same vehicle template. If a vehicle can reach your main entrance at speed, fix it before the weekend. Bollards, jersey barriers, planter walls, parked vehicles forming a chicane: anything that breaks straight-line approach. ▶ ARMED SECURITY POSTURE. Temple Israel had armed guards and stopped a mass-casualty event among 140 children. Match the threat to the response. The decision to deploy or not deploy armed security is the central life-safety choice for any congregation operating a school or pre-school. ▶ FBI FIELD OFFICE LIAISON. If you do not have an active liaison with your nearest FBI field office and your local fusion center, establish it this week. SCN-affiliated congregations should already have this; ensure the contact roster is current. ▶ CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS, THIS APPLIES TO YOU. UK and Israeli analysis assesses the IRGC-linked HAYI network views Western Christian institutions as part of the same target set as Jewish institutions. If your congregation is visibly pro-Israel or operates a school, treat your security posture as if you were on that list. <p>SCN · CISA Houses of Worship Guide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OFF-HOURS COVERAGE. Grand Rapids 05 May happened on school grounds at 6:30 p.m., well after dismissal. If your campus is in community use after hours, your security posture cannot end at dismissal. Lighting, periodic patrols, contact protocols for out-of-hours users. ▶ GRADUATION VENUE, TIGHTEN TODAY. Carter-Finley demonstrates the named-speaker threat is real and propagating. Audit your bag policy enforcement at EVERY entry, not just the main gate. Coordinate with local PD on counter-surveillance the day before. Pre-position EMS. ▶ ANONYMOUS REPORTING. The Hicks plot was disrupted by a tip from the public. Anonymous tip systems consistently outperform staff detection. If yours is not actively promoted to students this month, promote it before finals. ▶ FORMER-STUDENT AND TERMINATED-EMPLOYEE ACCESS. Restricted persons lists must be current. May is the peak grievance window for both populations. Audit the list, audit the access logs, audit the door codes. No assumptions. <p>Sandy Hook Promise: Say Something · CISA K-12 Security Guide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SCHEDULED-MEETING SCREENING. Carrollton 05 May was a scheduled business meeting that became a mass shooting. If your tenants or staff are conducting tenant disputes, evictions, financial settlements, or terminations on-site, screen the visitor; provide a duress option for the staff member; brief receptionists on de-escalation triggers. ▶ OUTDOOR / EVENT VENUES. Spring festival, parade, and graduation season is open. Bag screening at outdoor events over 50 attendees is no longer optional. Train staff to recognize suspicious items: sealed glass jars, duct tape, unusual weight, exposed wiring, heavy fuses. ▶ STRIP MALL / MIXED-USE. K Towne Plaza was a multi-tenant property; nearby tenants bear the consequence of any one tenant's dispute. Property managers should brief all tenants on behavioral indicators, post the duress number visibly, and establish a property-wide lockdown protocol. ▶ REPORT IT. Person loitering, unattended bag, unusual vehicle, threats overheard. Calls to law enforcement on the day of the event are how plots get disrupted. tips.fbi.gov is the federal channel; your local fusion center is the state channel. <p>tips.fbi.gov · DHS Soft Target Resource Guide</p>

FULL SOURCE REGISTRY: THIS EDITION

Houston Beth Israel Plot / Vehicle Ramming Method

- [ABC11: Hicks Charged in Mass-Murder Plot](#)
- [ABC13 Houston: NC Woman / Harris Co Juvenile Arrested](#)
- [NPR: Two Arrested in Plot to Attack Houston Synagogue](#)
- [Jewish Insider: Planned Ramming Attack](#)
- [Times of Israel: Conspiracy to Drive Through Congregation](#)

UK Threat Level SEVERE / Golders Green / HAYI Network

Carrollton TX Shopping Center Shooting

- [Texas Tribune: Carrollton Shopping Center Shooting](#)
- [FOX 4: Carrollton Suspect Motive](#)
- [ABC News: Carrollton Two-Scene Event](#)
- [KSAT: Back-to-Back Shootings North of Dallas](#)

Grand Rapids MI Off-Hours School Shooting

- [WOOD TV: Grand Rapids Shooting Initial Report](#)
- [FOX 17: Suspect Arraignment](#)

- [Wikipedia: 2026 London Antisemitic Attacks](#)
- [Wikipedia: 2026 Golders Green Attack](#)
- [TIME: Rise of Antisemitism in the UK](#)
- [Christian Warrior Training: UK Synagogue Hardening Brief](#)

West Bloomfield Temple Israel / Method Baseline

- [Wikipedia: 2026 Michigan Synagogue Attack](#)
- [Detroit News: Synagogue Attack on Michigan Houses of Worship](#)
- [Valortec: Soft-Target Security Failures Analysis](#)
- [CISA: Vehicle Ramming Attacks Resource Guide](#)

NC State Commencement Threat / Graduation Security

- [WRAL: NC State Communicating Threats Arrest](#)
- [WRAL: Robust Security Plan / NC State Prepares](#)
- [CBS17: Threat Against Duke Energy CEO](#)
- [NC State News: Class of 2026 Commencement](#)
- [Campus Safety: Graduation Security Planning](#)

- [WWMT: Suspect and Victims Identified](#)
- [Education Week: School Shootings 2026 Tracker](#)

Iran Conflict Context (Operational Background)

- [Al Jazeera: Ceasefire Holds Despite Hormuz](#)
- [CBS News: US-Iran Ceasefire Holding For Now](#)
- [Wikipedia: 2026 Iran War Ceasefire](#)

Standing References: ADL / Soufan / NTAS

- [ADL: Decade of Attacks on Synagogues Worldwide](#)
- [ADL: Jewish Community Unprecedented Threat Environment](#)
- [DHS: National Terrorism Advisory System \(currently no active bulletin\)](#)
- [Soufan Center: 2026 Terrorism Trends](#)

Prior Editions / Full Product Suite

- [STSB Vol. 1, Issue 3 \(10 April 2026, internal\)](#)
- [Fortune Favors the Prepared: Full Product Suite](#)

This Practitioner Edition covers what is active, confirmed, and directly actionable for security personnel on the ground today. Historical incidents (Gracie Mansion ISIS plot indictment, Old Dominion University, Pauls Valley OK, Ellensburg WA), European proxy operations (HAYI macro-analysis), and Iran war broader context appear in the Daily Threat Report (DTR) and Strategic Intelligence Supplements. The Passover threat window closed 21 April; threat focus has shifted to graduation season and summer mass-gathering events. Full product suite at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/.

FFTP PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES: TURN INTELLIGENCE INTO ACTION

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN (FEP) WORKBOOK

Pairs with companion custom Area-Specific Assessment Report (ASAR)

WHAT: A structured family planning workbook covering household roles, communications, evacuation, shelter-in-place, medical baselines, document recovery, and PREP-CON posture. Captures the full plan in one editable workbook. The companion ASAR delivers a custom hazard and threat assessment for your specific area, paired to the FEP outputs.

WHO: Households building or refreshing a documented family emergency plan; readers who want their plan grounded in their own area's hazard and threat picture rather than a generic template.

[Get the FEP Workbook + ASAR >](#)

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT (PPA) WORKBOOK

Pairs with companion custom Personal Preparedness Assessment Report (PPAR)

WHAT: An individual-focused assessment workbook covering personal readiness across mindset, fitness, skills, EDC, gear, communications, medical, finance, and continuity. Generates the data set the companion PPAR uses to deliver a custom written assessment of your personal preparedness posture with prioritized gaps and a remediation plan.

WHO: Individual practitioners, professionals, and serious preppers who want a written, defensible personal preparedness baseline rather than a self-graded checklist.

[Get the PPA Workbook + PPAR >](#)

NEXT OF KIN (NOK) WORKBOOK

Standalone resource

WHAT: A consolidated workbook that captures the information your family will need in the worst case: identity and legal documents, financial accounts and access, insurance, healthcare directives, digital assets, contact rosters, asset inventories, and final wishes. Built to be filled out once and updated annually.

WHO: Anyone whose absence would leave their family scrambling to find passwords, accounts, or paperwork; estate-planning starters; military and first-responder families; anyone with dependents.

[Get the NOK Workbook >](#)

HOUSEHOLD RECOVERY WORKBOOK (COMING SOON)

Post-event recovery companion

WHAT: A structured workbook for the recovery phase that begins after the response phase ends: insurance documentation, debris management, temporary housing, financial assistance navigation, contractor vetting, document replacement, and re-entry checklists. Covers the gap most family plans skip entirely.

WHO: Households recovering from disaster, displacement, or significant property loss; families that want a recovery plan in place before they need it.

[Notify me when available >](#)

THE CONTINUITY CHRONICLES

A techno-thriller series by Nick Meacher

Book 1: The Meadow Protocol · Book 2: The Brush · Book 3: Unassigned Authority · Book 4: in development

Read more at thecontinuitychronicles.net

END OF STSB PRACTITIONER EDITION · 09 MAY 2026

Fortune Favors the Prepared.

We track threats so practitioners can act. The window between disruption and execution closes faster than reporting catches up. Read, decide, move.

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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