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NJOHSP INTELLIGENCE NOTE

AUGUST 29, 2016

Major Islamic Holiday Will Fall Near September 11

For the first time since September 11, 2001, one of the holiest holidays in Islam—Eid al-Adha—will fall on or around the anniversary of the terrorist attacks. During the four-day Eid holiday, prayers and celebrations will be held at mosques, high schools, and parks throughout New Jersey. Muslims attend morning prayers on the first day and engage in social gatherings for the remaining three days. In some cases, it is customary for Muslims to sacrifice mainly sheep, goats, or cows.

- The timing of the four-day Eid will not be known until next week. Religious authorities determine the holiday's dates by observing the moon's crescent.
- Eid al-Adha commemorates the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael at God's command. The holiday marks the end of Muslims' annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia—or Hajj—one of the five pillars of Islam.



Millions of Muslims travel to Mecca, Saudi Arabia every year for Hajj.

In the lead-up to Eid's timing with September 11th, NJOHSP, the Office of the Attorney General, the State Police, and federal law enforcement partners will meet with statewide Muslim and other faith-based leaders, as well as disseminate awareness products to the public.

The State has already created a [Religious Facilities Assessment](#), which offers faith-based institutions unclassified analysis on key threats and mitigation strategies.



NJOHSP hosts an Interfaith Advisory Council meeting at Drew University on March 30, 2016.

- We encourage faith-based partners to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement and to NJOHSP by calling 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ or 2-1-1, or by emailing tips@njohsp.gov.

Special Events Submission Form

Each month, NJOHSP compiles a list of special events scheduled throughout the State, which is disseminated to law enforcement partners. We encourage you to share information on events in your jurisdiction by submitting a [Special Events Form](#).