



## Cyber Security

National Cyber Security Awareness Month is observed every October and was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) would like to provide you with the following information on cyber attacks.

Cybersecurity involves preventing, detecting, and responding to cyberattacks that can have wide ranging effects on the individual, organizations, the community, and at the national level. Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer system. Cyberattacks can lead to loss of money, theft of personal information, and damage to your reputation and safety. Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer system.

### Cyber Attacks:

- Can use computers, mobile phones, gaming systems, and other devices;
- Can include identity theft;
- Can block your access or delete your personal documents and pictures;
- Can target children; and
- Can cause business services, transportation, and power.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Cyber Security
- Fall Outdoor Fire Safety
- Hurricane Relief Scam Warning and Where to Donate
- Fire Prevention Week
- ReadyPA Action Sheet: Cyber Safety for Kids



### Protect Yourself Against a Cyber Attack

- Keep software and operating systems up-to-date
- Use strong passwords and two-factor authentication (two methods of verification).
- Watch for suspicious activity. When in doubt, don't click. Do not provide personal information.
- Use encrypted (secure) internet communications.
- Create backup files.
- Protect your home and/or business WIFI network.

### Before a Cyber Attack

You can increase your chances of avoiding cyber risks by setting up the proper controls. The following are things you can do to protect yourself, your family, and your property before a cyberattack occurs:

- Use strong passwords that are 12 characters or longer. Use upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Change passwords monthly. Use a password manager.
- Use a stronger authentication such as a personal identification number (PIN) or password that only you would know. Consider using a separate device that can receive a code or uses a biometric scan (e.g., fingerprint scanner).
- Watch for suspicious activity that asks you to do something right away, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or needs your personal information. Think before you click.

## Cyber Security (continued)

- Check your account statements and credit reports regularly.
- Use secure internet communications.
- Use sites that use HTTPS if you will access or provide any personal information. Do not use sites with invalid certificates. Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that creates a secure connection.
- Use antivirus solutions, malware, and firewalls to block threats.
- Regularly back up your files in an encrypted file or encrypted file storage device.
- Limit the personal information you share online. Change privacy settings and do not use location features.
- Protect your home network by changing the administrative and Wi-Fi passwords regularly. When configuring your router, choose the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) setting, which is the strongest encryption option.

### During a Cyber Attack

- Limit the damage. Look for unexplained charges, strange accounts on your credit report, unexpected denial of your credit card, posts you did not make showing up on your social networks and people receiving emails you never sent.
- Immediately change passwords for all of your online accounts.
- Scan and clean your device.
- Consider turning off the device. Take it to a professional to scan and fix.
- Let work, school, or other system owners know. Information
- Contact banks, credit card companies, and other financial accounts. You may need to place holds on accounts that have been attacked. Close any unauthorized credit or charge accounts. Report that someone may be using your identity.
- Check to make sure the software on all of your systems is up-to-date.
- Run a scan to make sure your system is not infected or acting suspiciously.
- If you find a problem, disconnect your device from the Internet and perform a full system restore.
- If in a public setting immediately inform a librarian, teacher, or manager in charge to contact their IT department.



### After a Cyber Attack

- File a report with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) if you think someone is illegally using your Social Security number. OIG reviews cases of waste, fraud, and abuse. To file a report, visit [www.idtheft.gov](http://www.idtheft.gov).
- You can also call the Social Security Administration hotline at 1-800-269- 0271. For additional resources and more information, visit <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>.
- File a complaint with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov). They will review the complaint and refer it to the appropriate agency.
- Learn tips, tools, and more at [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect).
- File a report with the local police so there is an official record of the incident.
- Report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission.
- Contact additional agencies depending on what information was stolen. Examples include contacting the Social Security Administration if your social security number was compromised, or the Department of Motor Vehicles if your driver's license or car registration has been stolen.
- Report online crime or fraud to your local United States Secret Service (USSS) Electronic Crimes Task Force ([www.secretservice.gov/investigation/#field](http://www.secretservice.gov/investigation/#field)) or the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(www.ic3.gov/default.aspx\)](http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx)

## Fall Outdoor Fire Safety

Despite a record wet year, a few days of dry weather in the fall can lead to an increased risk for outdoor fires. Falling leaves, drying grass, and warm & breezy weather can easily lead to conditions needed for unwanted outdoor fire spread. It's important you review these safety tips for all your outdoor fall activities that may involve an open flame or other heat source.

### Outdoor Burning Safety Tips

- Avoid burning outdoors in dry, hot, and windy conditions
- Always have a bucket of water or hose nearby to help prevent fire spread
- Have a 10-foot ring of dirt or gravel around your pit
- Look up to make sure you're well away from trees, overhangs, and utility lines
- Only burn organic materials such as wood and brush
- Keep flammable materials at least 30 feet away from your pit
- If you live near a wooded area, maintain a large clearance between the burn and the tree line
- Make sure you monitor the fire to ensure embers or brands aren't spreading
- Ensure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving it
- Check the area for a few days to ensure there are no hot spots remaining
- If you do have an unexpected fire, dial 9-1-1 immediately to report it



### Check with your Municipality

- Some municipalities have ordinances prohibiting open burning, or limit it to cooking purposes only
- Officials may issue burn bans if conditions may lead to rapid fire spread
- Some burning may require a permit, such as a bonfire
- If you are planning to burn on your property, you may want to notify your local fire company or county 9-1-1 center using a non-emergency line

For more information, check out the following websites:



Current fire danger:

<https://www.wfas.net/index.php/fire-danger-rating-fire-potential--danger-32>



PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Wildfire Website:

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Wildfire/Pages/default.aspx>



Smokey Bear Website:

<https://smokeybear.com/en>



**IMPORTANT**

PEMA would like to warn Pennsylvanians to be aware of scams in the wake of Hurricane Florence. Watch out for red flags of hurricane-related scams, including unsolicited email, social media messages, or telephone calls. Do not give to a charity you know nothing about. Call the charity or do some research on your own. To determine if a charitable group is properly registered in Pennsylvania, you can search the PA Charities Online Database ([www.charities.pa.gov](http://www.charities.pa.gov)) or you may call 1-800-732-0999. Whenever possible, write a check payable to the charity so you have a record of your donation. Also, consider not donating food and clothing. While donations of goods such as food and clothing are well-intentioned, unsolicited materials can overwhelm organizations that are tasked with helping survivors but are unprepared to store, sort and distribute large quantities of donated goods.

## Fire Prevention Week (October 7<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>)

Every year, most fire deaths occur in the home. As of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Pennsylvania has experienced 104 civilian fire deaths in residential homes. 55 of these deaths have been Older Adults, aged 55 and over. Today's home fires burn faster than ever. When you were younger, you had 5-7 minutes to escape a house fire, but now that time is down to 1 to 2 minutes. Please review the below points to prepare yourself in the event you do experience a fire. We never know when and where a fire strike, so please be prepared!



### Home Fire Escape Planning

- Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire strikes.
- A home escape plan should include two exits from every room in the home – usually a door and a window
- Properly installed and working smoke alarms
- A meeting place outside, in front of the home, where everyone will meet after they exit o A call to 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone
- Smoke Alarms
- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

**Safe Cooking Tips:** Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home. Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

**Heating Safety:** Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires. All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment. Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters. Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Have a qualified professional install heating equipment. Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.

## PEMA is Social!

*Find us, visit us, like us, tweet us, retweet us!*



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

## PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

*Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!*



[www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)



**pennsylvania**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

### Preparedness Events in October

#### **National Crime Prevention Month**

([www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month))

#### **Cyber Security Awareness Month**

(<https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>)

#### **Fire Prevention Week (10/7 to 10/13)**

([www.nfpa.org/fpw/index.html](http://www.nfpa.org/fpw/index.html))

#### **The Great Shakeout (10/18 at 10:18 a.m.)**

([www.shakeout.org/northeast](http://www.shakeout.org/northeast))

### Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

ReadyPA: [www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)

SERVPA: [www.Serv.PA.gov](http://www.Serv.PA.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services: [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

PA State Animal Response Team: [www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

PA Department of Transportation: [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov)

PA511Connect: [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com)

Pennsylvania State Police: [www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

### Did you know?

- 81%** Of young people think bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person.
- 19%** of teen users have posted things they regret, including photos, videos, status updates, tweets, or comments.
- 43%** of teens have been victims of Cyberbullying.



### Know Your Terms: Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying can take many forms

Sending mean messages or threats to someone's email account or cell phone.



Spreading rumors online or through texts.

Posting hurtful or threatening messages on social networking sites or web pages.



Stealing someone's account information to break into their account and send damaging messages.

### 5 Cyber Safety Tips

#### ZIP IT



Keep your personal stuff private including the names of your family members, your school, your telephone number, and address. Turn off your GPS location services and your device's camera when not using them.

#### BLOCK IT



Be careful who you friend online. Just because someone with mutual friends wants to add you on a website or app doesn't mean they are trustworthy.

#### CHECK IT

Think twice before you post or say anything online. Only do or say things online that you would do or say in real life; once it is in cyberspace, it is out there forever.

#### FLAG IT



If you see something inappropriate, tell an adult you trust. Don't stand for bullying— online or off.

#### LOCK IT



Use strong passwords with 8 characters or more that also has numbers, letters, AND symbols. Use privacy settings on social networking sites.