National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium

Proposed Content for FRTS in support of
National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Cybersecurity is important every day, but during this annual National Cybersecurity Awareness month, it is especially important to be reminded that *cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility*. Did you know that end users are the weakest link in an organization's cybersecurity posture? With the ever-increasing threat of ransomware and phishing attacks utilized by cyber criminals and nation state hackers and the cyber threats that are increasing in severity, frequency, and sophistication each year, this is a weakness none of us can afford. Ask yourself, do you and your colleagues know the most basic of things that all users should know in this environment? At a minimum, all users should know:

- How to identify potential schemes and/or attacks
- What to do to protect their organization's data and their own personal information
- Who to contact within their organization should they observe unusual activity
- Who to contact if they become a victim of a cyber attack

The key to strengthening that weakest link is cybersecurity training, including the training available through FEMA and the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium (NCPC). Cybersecurity training can help users defend against ransomware, malware, and phishing attacks, one of the primary means by which cyber criminals and nation state sponsored hackers access our nations critical cyber networks. Training at the individual or end user level can also help to improve the cybersecurity posture of an organization or within a community. The NCPC provides cybersecurity training to local jurisdictions, counties, states, tribal nations, territories, and the private sector, with the goals of helping to improve the cybersecurity posture of communities across the country and facilitating information and resource sharing between public and private sector entities throughout the whole community.

So, to contribute to your cybersecurity awareness this month, the NCPC offers the following tips and suggestions to get you started:

A. Use strong passwords and multifactor authentication.
B. Recognize and report phishing and social engineering schemes.
C. Keep operating systems, antivirus software, and web browsers up to date.
D. Enroll in and attend no-cost FEMA cybersecurity training offered through the NCPC.
E. Encourage others within your community and/or organization to take advantage of the training to become more "cyber safe".

Support the National Cybersecurity Awareness Month by sharing these tips with your colleagues, friends and family. We can all use a reminder that cybersecurity is our responsibility too and that we should all pay attention to our cyber safety and our resilience to cyber threats.

NCPC members include the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University of Texas, San Antonio; the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI), University of Arkansas System, Cybersecurity Defense Initiative (CDI); the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service/National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center (TEEX/NERRTC); Norwich University Applied Research Institutes; and the University of Memphis, Center for Information Assurance (CfIA).

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For more information about available cybersecurity training both web-based and on-site instructor-led, see the NCPC list of courses at https://www.nationalcpc.org/courses.html or learn more about the NCPC at: www.nationalcpc.org

Contacts for NCPC Members:

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