CONNER STRONG & BUCKELEW

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

What Are You Doing to Reduce the Risk?

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Rarely a week passes without a news headline featuring the latest cyber threat, incident or hack. What they illustrate is that cyber threats do not discriminate, are not bound by borders, and constantly loom in our personal and professional lives. And the risk only rises as we move more onto the cloud and hackers become more sophisticated.

To raise awareness of these threats, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). During the month, NCSAM participants provide education regarding cyber security and highlight available tools and resources to mitigate risks for both individuals and organizations.

As many organizations struggle to combat this overwhelming issue, there is no time like the present to begin addressing the risks in your organization and your life. Below are a few key points to get started.

1 Create a Cyber Security Committee

Create a Cyber Security Committee in your organization to develop strategies to identify and reduce cyber exposures. Start by evaluating your cyber risks with a focus on the people, processes and technology that can leave you exposed. This assessment will highlight potential security gaps and identify areas of focus for your committee. Be sure your committee revisits strategies and plans often, as new risks arise frequently.

2 Review "Best Practices for Victim Response and Reporting of Cyber Incidents"

Review the document titled *Best Practices for Victim Response and Reporting of Cyber Incidents* authored by the Cybersecurity Unit of the U.S. Department of Justice. According to the DHS, 96% of breaches could have been avoided if simple or intermediate controls were in place. Protecting your data from cyber threats requires constant attention. This link outlines what steps you should take before, during and after your cyber breach. It is a comprehensive guide to help your cyber security committee determine the actions your organization needs to take in the event of a cyber attack. Preparedness is key!

3 Consider Cyber Insurance

Consider cyber insurance to cover your organization. This process alone can help you identify and fix the risks looming in your organization. Once in place, these policies not only protect your bottom line in the event of a breach, but also provide helpful risk management tools to assist you in protecting your organization, such as checklists, sample documents and vendor services.

4 Stay Up-to-Date

Stay up-to-date by taking the time to review the NCSAM 2016 website. You will find information about various events and resources provided by DHS, such as their Stop.Think.Connect. Toolkit and weekly Twitter Chat series during the month of October on various topics.

WITH THESE SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN BEGIN TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS.

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