



NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

National Cyber Security Awareness Month: Our Shared Responsibility What Local Government Can Do

When it comes to important issues, many citizens turn to local government as a source of reliable, current information. In addition, local government has dissemination networks to reach community residents. Therefore, local government can be a powerful force in making its community more cyber secure by engaging in robust education and awareness efforts. On behalf of the citizens you serve, consider doing the following during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month:

- Ask the Mayor, county executive, city council, or other appropriate elected official to issue a press release or hold a press conference to encourage citizens to seek cybersecurity information at local Web sites or www.staysafeonline.org.
- Hang National Cyber Security Awareness Month posters in government offices, community centers, and police stations (www.staysafeonline.org/content/posters-and-more).
- Encourage local government employees to review NCSA's Top Tips (www.staysafeonline.org/top-tips) at any community meetings held during the month.
- Have your IT department conduct annual cyber security training and presentations for employees and review acceptable network usage policies.
- Write an article on cybersecurity for publication in employee and community newsletters.
- Add NCSA's Top Tips to the municipal Web site or use a banner (available at www.staysafeonline.org/content/web-banners) to link to NCSA's Web site.
- If citizens report cybercrimes that local police don't have jurisdiction over, encourage them to report the crime to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov).
- Print NCSA's Top Tips brochure for distribution to the public (<http://www.staysafeonline.org/content/posters-and-more>).
- Check with the IT departments at all local government agencies (and third party vendors) to be sure they have the resources needed to keep municipal networks secure and that all systems have current, up-to-date security software.



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- Review and update network and computer acceptable use policies.
- Encourage all local government employees to change their passwords on a regular basis. Use long, complex passwords (letters, numbers, and symbols) to help thwart hackers.
- Develop a local public-private partnership to make your community more cybersecure. Encourage local technology companies to send volunteers to schools to teach NCSA's CSAVE Program to students. (For details and curriculum, see www.staysafeonline.org/csave.)
- Host a TV special with local experts on cybersecurity on your local cable access station.
- Conduct hearings to discuss and receive reports on the security of the municipality's networks.
- Work with the local the school board, department of education, and parents to ensure that school curriculum is comprehensive and addresses cybersecurity, cybersafety, and cyberethics (learn more at <http://staysafeonline.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=67&item=50>).
- Learn more at www.staysafeonline.org.
- Become a fan of the National Cyber Security Alliance's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/staysafeonline).