OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management

OCTOBER
CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

We use technology everyday and store a lot of personal information online. It's important to make sure you keep your data safe!

This month, we will talk about the steps you can take to secure yourself online and make your whole family Boone County Ready!

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

We can all protect ourselves, our friends, and our families from online threats. Digital crimes are happening every day, in order to prepare and protect ourselves, we must educate ourselves.

Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer or network system. Cyberattacks can lead to the loss of money or the theft of personal, financial and medical information. These attacks can damage your reputation and safety.

Cybersecurity involves preventing, detecting and responding to those cyberattacks that can have wide-ranging effects on individuals, organizations, the community and the nation.

Cyberattacks

A cyberattack is any intentional effort to steal, expose, alter, disable, or destroy data, applications, or other assets through unauthorized access to a network, computer system or digital device. They can occur in a variety of ways such as:

- **Accessing** your personal computers, mobile phones, gaming systems and other internet- and Bluetooth-connected devices.
- **Damaging** your financial security, including identity theft.
- **Blocking** your access or deleting your personal information and accounts.
- **Complicating** your employment or business services.
- **Impacting** transportation and the power grid.
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CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Preventing a Cyberattack

There are many steps that can be taken to prevent cyberattacks. These tips will help prepare you to recognize potential attacks and prevent you from falling victim to them.

- **Limit Information** Limit the personal information you share online. Change privacy settings and do not use location features.
- **Strong Passwords** Create strong passwords by using upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters.
- **Think Before You Click** 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. When in doubt, do NOT click.
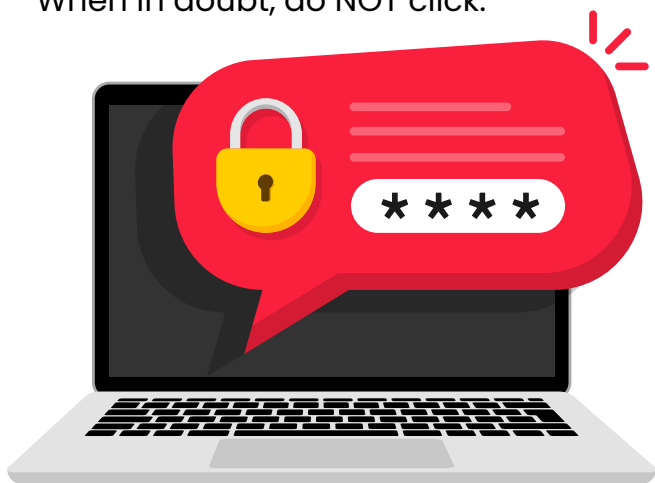
References & Further Reading:
- https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month
- Ready.gov

- **Protect Sensitive Data** Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, Social Security number or credit card number
- **Monetary Requests** Remember that the government will not call, text or contact you via social media about owing money.
- **Update Software** Ensuring your software is up to date is the best way to make sure you have the latest security patches and updates on your devices. Regularly check for updates if automatic updates are unavailable.
- **Multifactor Identification (MFA)** MFA confirms our identities when logging in to our accounts, like entering a code texted to a phone or one generated by an authenticator app. Even if our passwords become compromised, unauthorized users will be unable to meet the second step requirement and will not be able to access our accounts.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

SCAM ALERT

During a Cyberattack

If you think you are under a cyberattack there are many steps you can take to secure your information and lessen the damage.

- **Secure your finances** Check your credit card and bank statements for unusual charges. Also check your credit reports for any new accounts or loans you didn't open. Contact your bank to pause all cards.
- **Change your passwords** If you notice strange activity.
- **Turn off the device** that has been affected. Take it to a professional to scan for possible viruses and remove any that they find. Remember: A company will not call you and ask for control of your computer to fix it. This is a common scam.

After a Cyberattack - What Can You Do?

- **File a complaint** with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center. They will review the complaint and refer it to the appropriate agency.
- **Report online crime or fraud** to your local United States Secret Service (USSS) Electronic Crimes Task Force or the Internet Crime Complaint Center.
- **Report identity theft** to the Federal Trade Commission.
- **Contact** the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at if you receive messages from anyone claiming to be a government agent.
- **Remember** cyberattacks can happen to anyone anywhere and all we can do is take steps to prevent becoming a victim.
- **Always follow** your organization's policies and procedures if you believe a work device is affected.

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Every month, we like to spotlight one of our local partners who work hard to make Boone County an amazing place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Michele Snodderley!

Please introduce yourself and your organization: Michele Snodderley, Executive Director of True North of Columbia.

What does your organization provide? True North supports victims and survivors of intimate partner domestic violence, sexual violence, Human Trafficking, and Stalking. True North provides services through our emergency shelter and non-residential services through our advocacy center. Services include Court Advocacy, Case Management, Counseling, Support Groups, and Children and Family Activities. The Shelter houses a 24/7 crisis line that assists in safety planning, ex partes, crisis intervention, and shelter screenings. We also provide education in the community to youth and young adults on healthy relationships and drink tampering.

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT (CONT.)

What are some challenges you face?
Housing: Columbia is experiencing a housing crisis which makes it difficult to find affordable housing. To accompany that, many of the individuals we serve have other barriers including evictions or outstanding rent after fleeing an abusive relationship. This adds to the difficulty in securing housing.

Transportation: A majority of those we serve do not have a vehicle or reliable transportation. The transit system in Columbia is limited in what it can provide.

Available Services: Historically, True North provided approximately 5000 in support services per year. We saw a significant increase in 2023 to over 16,000 support services provided. We expect to see another increase for 2024. Funding is expected to remain flat for 2025 and won't be increasing, which doesn't allow for the staff growth needed to provide the increase in services. This could lead to increased waitlists for support services.

Shelter Capacity: True North can house in shelter up to 30 residents. We have been at capacity for several months.

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?
I love to go camping and kayaking with my husband, spend time with our children, read, and do community theatre!

What's one thing on your bucket list?
To build a small cabin near a river so I can enjoy the beauty and peace of being in nature! Also, owning 4 chickens named Sophia, Rose, Blanche and Dorothy.

Thanks so much for the work you do. What else should our readers know about you and your organization?
I could not do any of this without our absolutely amazing staff, dedicated board and volunteers, and, of course, the support for the community. Because of all of them, no one has to work through the difficult time alone!

TRAINING & EXERCISE

October has been an amazing month, and it is hard to believe it is over. Our office wishes a happy and safe holiday season.

We started the month hosting Active Shooter Incident Management Basic Course, which involved participants from over 15 Mid-Missouri agencies. The training included simulations that placed responders in a 3D virtual environment to test and improve their skills to an active threat within our community.

Our office, in collaboration with the Southern Boone Fire Protection District (SBFPD), tested our flood pumps to ensure they are prepared for when we need them. These pumps can be used to help clear debris from storm drains and flooded areas. Thank you to our office staff and to SBFPD for making this possible!

Photo: C3Pathways brought in a virtual reality simulator that allowed participants to experience potential situations via a helicopter viewpoint for our Active Shooter Incident Management Advanced class.

Photos: Administrative Coordinator Luster (pictured) and Administrative Assistant Messer transported and tested the flood pumps.

OUTREACH

Outreach is critical for building resilience within Boone County. Our goal is for every citizen to be prepared for hazards that can affect our community including flooding, tornadoes, and earthquakes!

This month, our team did some outreach with Trunk or Treat hosted, by Columbia Orthopedic Group. Our office spoke to families about the importance of planning and being prepared for a variety of hazards we face here in Boone County.

At the event, we handed out bags loaded with preparedness guides and plenty of candy - making readiness a little sweeter!

Photo: Specialist Lewin and Deputy Director Waller (not pictured) talking about ways to be prepared and handing out candy!

Photo: Columbia Orthopedic Group - Trunk or Treat.

Photo: OEM Outreach vehicle and booth displayed at Columbia Orthopedic Group's Trunk or Treat event.

MEET KIERSTEN TRAUCHT

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Kiersten is currently finishing her bachelor's degrees in constitutional democracy and political science at The University of Missouri.

Kiersten brings a diverse range of experiences to the internship, having worked roles from Guest Services at MizzouRec, bartending at a local restaurant, and to a supervisor position at CVS. These jobs have honed her skills in communication, teamwork, and project management, making her well-prepared for the internship program.

She is enthusiastic about joining BCOEM and eager to explore how emergency management integrates into everyday life. Kiersten looks forward to leading key projects, such as producing the monthly *Chronicle* and revamping the OEM website to aid in accessibility.

In her daily life, you are likely to find Kiersten reading, hanging out with friends, and traveling to new places. While away at school she misses her sisters and dog, Marley, but she loves living in Columbia!

Photo: Marley the dog

STAFF UPDATE

Chris Kelley, Director

Chris helped coordinate logistics for October offerings for the Emergency Operations Center All-Hazards course, the FEMA Active Shooter Incident Management course, and the FEMA Recovery Management training. In addition, he attended the Missouri HOPE Disaster Exercise hosted by the Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO.

Kraig Johnson, Planning & Preparedness Specialist

Kraig participated in a MoDOT I-70 Planning meeting, a CPS Reunification Meeting, and a CFD FirstNet Meeting this month. He also attended a CISA Active Shooter Webinar, a National Weather Service Winter Outlook Meeting, and a Election IAP and Meeting with Stakeholders. Lastly, he helped out at both Home Game EOC Activations and the Homecoming Activation.

Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist

This month, Chris has continued developing the County's Disaster Recovery Plan with our local community members, attended the FEMA Disaster Recovery Management Training, and coordinated the planning committee for updates to the Mitigation Plan. Chris also traveled to Maryville, MO to observe Missouri Hope exercise. He participated in our Trunk or Treat Outreach event, attended a ADA web accessibility training, and Supported EOC activations for the Mizzou homecoming parade/football game.

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

This month, Matt helped host Active Shooter Incident Management Basic and then a Campus Emergency Planning classes. He attended the FEMA Disaster Recovery Workshop, CERT Train the Trainer class, and our regular CERT Monthly Training. He supported the Out of the Darkness Walk and a Advanced ASIM class.

Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator

Della was built active shooter kits with Bart. She also reconciled our purchasing cards, helped everyone out with budgeting, and made sure that everyone in the office got paid!

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

This month, Jake has attended the MGT 346 EOC Operations & Planning for All Hazards course, the FEMA Disaster Recovery Management training, and the G418 Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Planning and Operations course. He also helped staff the EOC activation for the MU Homecoming Parade and football game. He attended the MO111 In-land Search and Rescue Planning course. Additionally he helped out at the Columbia Orthopedic Group Trunk or Treat outreach event.

Bart Messer, Administrative Assistant

Bart worked on building active assailant kits with Della. He also answered phone calls to the ECC, updated our EOC computers, checked the OEM vehicles biweekly, held our fort down, and paid the bills.

ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

The Boone County Office of Emergency Management OEM Chronicle contains preparedness information to help those who live, work, and visit Boone County become better prepared for emergencies.

If you have any suggestions about content to add to the Chronicle, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing **EM@boonecountymo.org**.
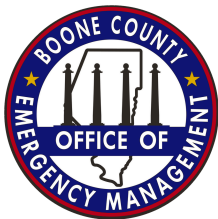
Come join almost 7,000 of your friends and neighbors and follow our socials. We are: **@BooneCountyOEM**

For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: **@boonecountyready**

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