



For Immediate Release

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Industry Alert: Cyber Security Resources for Businesses

Tallahassee, Fla. – The month of October is recognized as Cyber Security Awareness Month, designed to raise awareness about cyber security and staying safe online. The Florida Office of Financial Regulation reminds all Florida businesses to engage in smart cyber security practices and to take steps to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a cyber incident.

Typically, the purpose of a cyber breach is to steal or exploit information. As we have seen in recent months, large companies are targets of cyber attacks. But small businesses are not immune, potentially because they may have less security than a large company and they likely hold more digital information than an individual. Ensuring compliance with best practices for cyber security and reducing your risk is the best way to ward off a cyber threat.

If your organization is impacted by a cyber breach, make sure you understand your obligations to consumers under [Florida's Information Protection Act](#). The Florida Information Protection Act of 2014 was passed to better protect Floridians' personal information by ensuring that businesses and government entities take reasonable measures to protect personal information and report data breaches to affected consumers.

Below are some resources to assist businesses in creating a cyber security policy and action plan.

- The Federal Communications Commission offers helpful [cyber security tips](#) to protect your business, including training employees and creating back-up copies of important data.
- The Federal Communications Commission also offers an [online tool](#) to help create a customized cyber security plan.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration offers a free [web-based course](#) about securing information in a small business.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers [downloadable resources](#) about protecting your privacy and staying safe online.

- The National Cyber Security Alliance offers a [framework](#) for identifying and prioritizing online risk.

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The Florida Office of Financial Regulation provides regulatory oversight for Florida's financial services providers. Our mission is to protect Floridians, promote a safe and sound financial marketplace, and contribute to the growth of Florida's economy with smart, efficient and effective regulation of the financial services industry.

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