

## **National Cyber Security Awareness Month October 2012**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am the Associate Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity for the Department of Energy. I also serve as the Department's Chief Information Security Officer. In this position, I am charged with managing the agency's Enterprise Cybersecurity Program. I would like to take a moment to discuss the critical role that cybersecurity plays in our daily lives – both at work and at home. In recognition of the importance of cybersecurity awareness, the President designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Now in its ninth year, the 2012 National Cyber Security Awareness Month campaign is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity in order to increase the resiliency of the Nation in the event of a cyber incident. National Cyber Security Awareness Month focuses on raising awareness of cybersecurity issues and promoting shared responsibility among all stakeholders for securing cyberspace at work and at home. The Department of Energy is excited to once again be a fully engaged partner in this critical awareness event. This is an excellent opportunity for us to provide valuable awareness information to Departmental employees and equip them with the knowledge needed to process information safely at work and at home.

The technology that has greatly enhanced our lives with immediate access to resources and communication tools has also exposed us to tremendous adversarial threats such as identity thieves that attempt to steal our personal information or terrorists that desire to destroy our Nation's infrastructure. In addition, we are more interconnected than ever before. From the kitchen table to the classroom, from business transactions to essential

government operations and services, cybersecurity is an issue that touches all of us on a daily basis. Yet for all of its advantages, increased connectivity brings increased risk of theft, fraud, and abuse. No country, industry, community, or individual is immune to cyber risks.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month reminds us that being safer and more secure online is a shared responsibility. In other words, during the month of October we pay special attention to “*Achieving Cybersecurity Together*.” Each of us has an important role to play in securing our personal and professional cyberspace. Individual actions have a collective impact, and safe use of the Internet makes it more secure for everyone. If all Americans do their part by implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating young people and training employees, together we can foster a literate, resilient, and secure online society.

Throughout National Cyber Security Awareness Month and beyond, each of us should become more aware of cybersecurity risks and consistently implement common security practices on our home and business computers. By following these simple practices, we will significantly enhance the security of our online presence, therefore making the Internet a safer place for ourselves, our families, our communities and businesses, and our Nation.

- Set strong passwords, and don't share them with anyone.
- Keep a clean machine – your operating system, browser, and other critical software can be optimized by installing regular updates.
- Maintain an open dialogue with your family, friends, and community about Internet safety.
- Limit the amount of personal information you post online, and use privacy settings to avoid sharing information widely.

- Be cautious about what you receive or read online – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

I invite to participate in the variety of cybersecurity awareness activities and events that are being hosted this month at your sites or communities. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your awareness of growing cyber threats and knowledge of simple protection strategies for home and the workplace. My office is always available to provide cybersecurity awareness information. Please visit our website at [Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov) for more information.

One last comment, although October is the month set aside to focus on cyber threats and enhancing knowledge, let us not limit our awareness and actions to one month – instead remember to be vigilant in understanding and securing your personal cyberspace every day.

Thank you for your time.