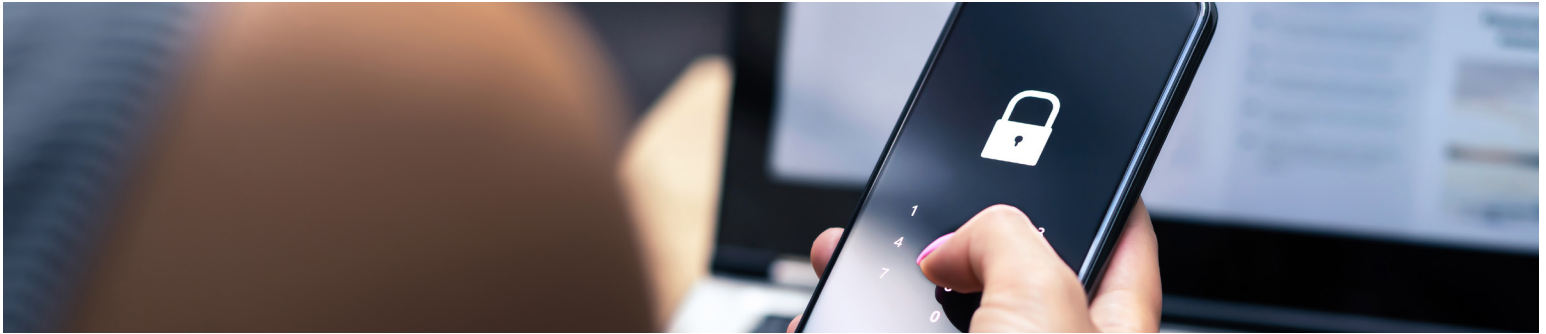




OCTOBER 2024

CO-OP CURRENT



Cybersecurity Tips for a Safer Digital World

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants, and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever present.

SCI REMC is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help, too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts, and sensitive data.

October is National Cybersecurity Month, and while good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round, we'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety.

- Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts. Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages, or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or download a malicious attachment. If you receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar, or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible—and don't forget to block the sender. (If you receive a suspicious work email, report it to the appropriate IT contact. Suspicious messages that are delivered to your personal email or social media accounts can also be reported.)
- Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember that length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. Create

unique passwords for each online account you manage, and use phrases you can easily remember.

- Enable multifactor authentication when available. Multifactor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access, or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.
- Update software regularly. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones, and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. Visit staysafeonline.org to learn about additional cybersecurity tips.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can increase our online safety with the following tips.

- 🔒 Recognize and report phishing attempts.
- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable multi-factor authentication.
- 🔒 Update software regularly.

Missed the Annual Meeting? **WATCH IT HERE!**

Watch the Annual Meeting video, view the 2024 director election results, and view the winners of the \$100 bill credits at sciremc.com/annualmeeting.



SCI REMC'S OPERATION ROUNDUP FUNDED **Brown County Humane Society**

WITH A \$3,000 GRANT

Brown County Humane Society applied for an Operation RoundUp grant to help install a furnace for their old shelter.

"The building has since been used to conduct our community outreach spay/neuter transports and to store pet food for our food pantry. Since the installation of the furnace, over 450 spay/neuter surgeries for public pets have been done and 9,992 pounds of pet food have been provided to families in need. Getting a new furnace for this building provided us the opportunity to continue these programs."

Photos provided by Brown County Humane Society.

The Operation RoundUp Program accumulates and disburses funds for charitable purposes to individuals, families, groups, and organizations located in the service area of South Central Indiana REMC. The source of funds is the REMC's members who voluntarily participate.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OPERATION ROUNDUP

sciremc.com/community/operation-roundup/

CONTACT US

765.342.3344 | operationroundup@sciremc.com