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NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Finance Offers National Cyber Security Awareness Month Safety Tips

Boise, Idaho . . . October is "National Cyber Security Awareness Month" and in support thereof, the Idaho Department of Finance has partnered with the **Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign**, a national effort to raise awareness about cybersecurity among all digital consumers, helping them to stay safer and more secure online. The Department recognizes the vital role that technology plays in the daily lives of Idahoans and that being aware of computer security essentials can improve overall security.

No consumer or community is immune to cyber risk, but there are steps you can take to minimize your chances of an incident:

- Set strong passwords, change them regularly and don't share them with anyone.
- Keep your operating system, browser and other critical software optimized by installing updates.
- Use privacy settings and limit the amount of personal information you post online.
- Be cautious about offers online – "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

The extent, nature and timing of cyber incidents are impossible to predict. If you are a victim of a cyber-incident take immediate action:

- Check to make sure the software on all of your systems is up-to-date.
- Run a scan to make sure your system is not infected or acting suspiciously.
- If you find a problem, disconnect your device from the internet and perform a full system restore.

After taking immediate action, notify the proper authorities.

- File a report with the local police so there is an official record of the incident.
- Report online crime or fraud to your local United States Secret Service (USSS) Electronic Crimes Task Force or Internet Crime Complaint Center.
- Report identity theft and consumer fraud to the Federal Trade Commission.

Valuable cybersecurity tips and information are posted on the Department of Finance website <http://www.finance.idaho.gov>, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

For more information about National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) and how to participate in NCSAM activities, visit <http://www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam>. You can also follow and use the hashtag **#cyberaware** on Twitter throughout October.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet at finance.idaho.gov and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8004 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.