



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GAVIN M. GEE  
Director

**CONTACT: David Jensen**  
Administrative Support Manager  
Supporting Services Bureau  
(208) 332-8020

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**October 18, 2016**

# Department of Finance Offers National Cyber Security Awareness Month Safety Tips

Boise, Idaho . . . In support of "National Cyber Security Awareness Month" in October, the Idaho Department of Finance has partnered with the **Stop.Think.Connect Campaign**. The national effort is aimed at raising awareness about cybersecurity among all digital consumers, helping them stay safer and more secure online. The Department of Finance 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, business or community is immune from 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 U.S. 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 at <http://www.finance.idaho.gov>, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

The Department of Finance has made a significant commitment to cybersecurity awareness, including sponsoring education and outreach events for the financial services industry, small business, consumers and others. Over the past 18 months, the department has encouraged financial institutions, retailers and consumers to adopt improved technologies such as EMV chip installed credit and debit cards, resulting in better protection and a significant reduction in fraudulent transactions. The department is also continuing to partner throughout the year with financial and education institutions, consumer groups, non-profits and other organizations to raise cyber security awareness.

## NEWS RELEASE

October 18, 2016

Page 2

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

\* \* \* \*

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