



# HSEM COMMUNITY UPDATE



St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
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St. Clair County, MI

11/21/2018

Issue 82



## BUSINESSES BEWARE!!

**Don't operate on the assumption that a Phishing Attack won't happen to you.**

Phishing attacks are on the rise, and they're increasingly costly for businesses. The most recent State of the Phish Report indicates that 76 percent of information security professionals experienced a phishing attack in 2017, and Verizon reports that 90 percent of all cyber-attacks (which increasingly include ransomware) begin with phishing emails. That means malicious email should be top of mind for businesses. However, many companies still don't quite understand the breadth and scope of the phishing problem, the potential risks, or even what phishing truly is.

Any attempt to obtain information or money using a fraudulent email counts as phishing. Phishing emails spoof the look and feel of an actual email message from a trusted source — a person or, more often, a company such as Amazon, Google or PayPal. These emails create a sense of urgency for users to follow a link to a page where they will enter their personal passwords to prevent some type of adverse event — like their email account being shut down or a fraudulent charge being processed — or to double-check an account balance.

Once they log in, their information may be stolen, or their computer could be infected with malware or ransomware. In some cases, cyber criminals use the data to hack into accounts and steal money or make fraudulent purchases.

Phishing scams usually include link manipulation — using misspelled URLs that are similar to legitimate ones. Often phishers are using images embedded in emails instead of text to help evade filters. More sophisticated approaches may involve a covert redirect that uses a login popup on a legitimate website.



There are a few common approaches:

- Spear phishing is an increasingly common attack that is directed at a specific individual or company. These attacks usually involve gathering information about the target or targets ahead of time in order to better craft phishing emails to manipulate potential victims.
- Clone phishing uses a legitimate and previously delivered email with an attachment or link that has its content and address cloned. The link/attachment is then replaced with a malicious site or attachment.
- Whaling attacks are directed at senior executives or other high-profile targets. These scams usually take the form of important business or legal emails and have even included forged subpoenas.
- SMS phishing, or smishing, uses cell phone text messages to skim personal information.

While email filters and other security technologies can help block phishing emails from getting to your customers' inboxes, the criminals behind these scams are constantly updating their techniques to avoid detection. Phishing relies heavily on psychological manipulation, and end users are the weakest link in the chain. Even basic, low-tech strategies can help you protect your business and your customers from the costs and consequences of a phishing attack. Those include:

Training - Provide end-user awareness training to help staff recognize the tell-tale signs of phishing – misspelled website names, oddly named attachments, etc. Employees should “hover” over sender names in emails and embedded links to make sure they match the origin account or a legitimate website.

Make sure they also know best practices, like never logging into a website they reached via an email link.

Designated Email Addresses - If the business regularly receives legitimate emails for financial transactions, for example, they could set up specific email addresses just for those requests. Limit the exposure of these addresses on public sites, which can help reduce their target footprint when it comes to phishing.

Enforce Email Policies - Set up policies to minimize the number of sensitive transactions that occur via email. If employees know that financial authorizations should only be made in person or over the phone, for example, it's unlikely they'll fall for a phishing attempt to get them to do so via email.

Phishing is a growing and constantly evolving threat, so it is important to stay up to date on the latest threats and what steps your organization can take to mitigate these attacks.

*Information provided by Jason Howells*



## Volunteering

Recently we had a meeting of citizens interested in volunteering their time to help St. Clair County before, during and after a major event. There were about 30 individuals present to help support the efforts of our office. We will have trainings for the different groups in the very near future.

If you are physically able and would like to volunteer your time call 810-989-6387 or email [emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org](mailto:emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org) with your information.

The groups include:

Reception Center Worker	Community Ready Team
Health/Medical Assistance	Public Educator
Donation Center Worker	Hazmat Worker
Weather Spotter	Animal Ready Team
Mass Feeding-Cook/Worker	Lift Truck Operator
Office Worker/Data Entry	Communications Support
Digital Volunteer/Social Media	
Heavy Equipment Operator	
Amateur Radio Operator	

## Do 1 thing in November: Emergency Supplies



**Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.**

### Tasks:

[Gather your emergency supplies in an accessible place.](#)

Have a go bag ready if you have to shelter in place or evacuate your home. Your go bag can be part of your emergency kit, just make sure it is in a bag or easy to carry container and that it is easy to get to.

[Create an emergency supply kit for your pet, your car, and your workplace or school.](#)

Disasters can strike when you are away from home. If your office or school does not have an emergency kit, offer to help make one.

[Stash some cash in case ATMs and credit card machines are not usable in a disaster.](#)

Some experts say you should have at minimum \$150.00 in cash stashed away. Realizing this may not be possible for everyone, any amount is good to start with.

For more information: [www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com)

## Free Trainings Available:

- **TECC (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care)** open to current firefighters in St. Clair County. December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm – 10pm at Clyde Township Fire Department. Call 810-989-6329 to RSVP.
- **HME (Homemade Explosives)** January 23, 2019 8am-12pm **or** January 24<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 10pm. At the EOC, 295 Airport Dr. Kimball. Call 810-989-6329 for more information or to sign up. This is an awareness course and the target audience is individuals that enter a home owner property or homes. Public and private sector personnel.
- **Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents** (MGT 348 – PER233)  
Date/Time: February 12 -13, 2019 8:00 am to 4:30 pm/Course Length: 2 days  
Location: St Clair County EOC 295 Airport Dr Kimball. This course is intended for members of emergency response as well as other city and county services that become a part of a community response to a bombing incident. If you would like more information or sign up instructions call 810-989-6329.

# WINTER CARE FOR SENIORS



During winter, it's important to look out for seniors in your family and neighborhood. Older adults are at higher risk in cold weather. Here are some tips to ensure older adults are prepared for winter weather:

- Make sure to prepare an emergency kit before winter arrives. Include medication.
- Connect with your family, friends, and neighbors to make sure you (and they) have a strong support system in case of an emergency.
- Check on your neighbors after any disaster or emergency, including when it's freezing.

Be careful after a storm. Limit your time outside in the cold. Reduce the risk of heart attack by making sure you don't overexert yourself when shoveling snow.

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## KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS



Did you know most home fires start in the kitchen? Whether you're making turkey or pie this holiday season, it is important to be careful when you're cooking. Use these tips to make sure your Thanksgiving is safe and delicious:

- Keep an eye on food when cooking.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up. Long sleeves can catch on fire.
- Never leave frying food alone. Most home cooking fires start when food is left unattended.

To learn more about staying safe over the holidays, visit <https://www.ready.gov/holiday-toolkit>. Join the conversation on social media by following @Citizen\_Corps and @Prepareathon. Share your holiday safety tips with #HolidaySafety!



## SCC Emergency Management partners with the American Red Cross

Recently the Red Cross has partnered with our office to provide assistance in our County. They now have a satellite office within the same building as the EOC. They have staff and volunteers that are ready to assist with disaster recovery at all levels. SCCHSEM plans to cross train some of our volunteers to work with the Red Cross in a Major Event affecting St. Clair County.

This partnership appears to have great benefits for our county. They are available 24/7 to assist.

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*We Wish Every One of You a  
Safe and Happy Thanksgiving*

Or visit our website at: [www.bereadystclaircounty.org](http://www.bereadystclaircounty.org)

