PROTECTING AMERICA’S ASSETS: YOUR DAILY CONNECTION TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Nearly 25 percent of Americans are constantly connected to the Internet.¹ With the increase of connected devices, the Internet is integrated into our daily lives where we are always online and interacting with a variety of cyber systems. These systems touch the 16 critical infrastructure sectors comprised of the assets and networks integral to America’s vitality. From sunrise to sunset, here are a few of the ways you depend on the critical infrastructure sectors around us.

YOUR CONNECTED DAY WITH CYBER AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

7:30 AM
STARTING THE DAY

From taking a shower to brewing your coffee and watching the news, your morning routine is fueled by the Energy Sector. If you’re like millions of other Americans, your TV is also connected to the Internet and uses technology generated from the Nation’s power grid.

12:30 PM
BUYING LUNCH

Eating lunch? The Food and Agriculture Sector uses the latest technology to help grow, package, track safety and quality, and deliver food to you.

7:30 PM
SHOPPING ONLINE

Ending your night with some shopping? With each online purchase, you connect to the Financial Services Sector.

8:30 AM
COMMUTING TO WORK

GPS navigations used to provide directions and real-time traffic information are enabled through the Transportation Systems Sector, that relies on cyber systems to run effectively.

5:30 PM
CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

After a full day, it’s time to connect with loved ones. Each phone call, text, voicemail, and email is enabled through the Communications Sector.

CONNECT WITH CARE

Tip: Limit the type of activities you conduct via public Wi-Fi hotspots and turn off sharing to eliminate open access to your device.

Tip: Be aware of what you share. Review privacy policies before purchasing a product, app, or connecting a device to the Internet and ensure privacy settings restrict access to your information.

Tip: Keep a clean machine by making sure security software, web browsers, apps, and operating systems are up to date.

Tip: Secure your accounts. Use multi-factor authentication whenever it is available and create a unique password for your router.

Tip: Make informed decisions before engaging businesses and vendors. Read reviews and research companies before purchasing products and services.

Tip: Be selective when clicking on links in emails and online posts. If it looks suspicious, even if you know the source, it’s best to delete it.

¹ | 2015 Pew Research Center Survey

To learn more about National Cyber Security Awareness Month and year-round online safety tips, visit: https://dhs.gov/ncsam | staysafeonline.org/ncsam

For more information on all the critical infrastructure sectors, visit: https://dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors

National Cyber Security Awareness Month is observed every October and led by its co-founders, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance.