



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Homeland Security

Ohio Homeland Security • William F. Vedra Jr., Executive Director  
[www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov)



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## **INTERNET SAFETY ENCOURAGED DURING NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH**

**COLUMBUS** – October has been declared National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Together with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Ohio Department of Public Safety's division of Homeland Security is promoting responsible use of the Internet to Ohioans as well as an overall awareness of fraud, identity theft and the dangers of cyber predators.

In this day and age, more Americans are spending much of their time online. As new technologies emerge, so do new threats of cyber attacks and risks to privacy.

"This is an excellent opportunity to remind Ohioans about the importance of protecting computers from online threats," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath. "There are simple, easy steps that people can take to become more vigilant in preventing a cyber attack, which could impact their lives significantly longer than the time it takes to make sure their computer is protected."

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, sponsored by DHS, was first established in October 2004 to draw attention to the fact that computers in homes and small businesses frequently are not secure. Through DHS' *Stop. Think. Connect.* Campaign, Ohioans can learn simple steps to keep themselves safe online. By doing so, Ohioans will learn to not only keep personal assets and information secure, but also help to improve the overall security of cyberspace.

According to DHS, the following steps are recommended for users to protect their personal computers:

- Make sure that you have anti-virus software and firewalls installed, properly configured, and up-to-date. New threats are discovered every day, and keeping your software updated is one of the easier ways to protect yourself from an attack. Set your computer to automatically update for you.
- Update your operating system and critical program software. Software updates offer the latest protection against malicious activities. Turn on automatic updating if that feature is available.
- Back up key files. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc and store it in a safe place.

**For more information on Cybersecurity Awareness Month, log on to  
<http://www.dhs.gov>.**

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