

# LA BEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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## *Supporting business during a disaster*



The world of cyber security is ever-evolving. A recent report states that not only is the number of phishing attacks increasing, but they are also getting more sophisticated at the same time. I joked with colleagues that I won more DeWalt Drills and home generators during the Christmas season than I could ever need.

SlashNext, a cyber security company, estimated that from OCT 2021 to OCT 2022, phishing attacks increased by 61%. Going into tax season, SlashNext predicts that number will increase even more.

This is all scary stuff, so what are businessmen and women to do? I will refer to an article I published in August 2021.

- **Never click a link** in an email, especially one from a person or company that you do not know or have done business with in the past.
- **Manage your “friend” requests.** Having a lot of “followers” increases your odds of being the “phish.”
- **Stop signing up for everyone’s email lists.** If there is a sale at the company that you regularly shop on for line, you will know about it.
- **If you don’t know the person that sent the email, just delete it.** Just like a phone call from someone you don’t know, if it is important, that will email again.

The bottom line goes back to an old joke my dad told me once; when trying to get away from a bear chasing you, you don’t have to outrun the bear, just the slowest person in your group. Cybercriminals will usually take the path of least resistance, so make yourself and your business a little harder target than everyone else.

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### **Greetings from NIMSAT!**

January is human trafficking awareness month.

***Did you know that Interstate 10 (I-10) is considered a major corridor for human trafficking in the United States?***

According to DHS, “Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children

are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality”.

DHS further states “traffickers might use the following methods to lure victims into trafficking situations:

- Violence
- Manipulation
- False promises of well-paying jobs
- Romantic relationships

**Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.**

Traffickers look for people who are easy targets for a variety of reasons, including:

- Psychological or emotional vulnerability
- Economic hardship
- Lack of a social safety net
- Natural disasters
- Political instability

The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings”.

In addition, DHS states that “recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life”.

Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

I encourage you to learn more about human trafficking in the United States by visiting <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

***In addition, if you suspect you have witnessed human trafficking or may be experiencing human trafficking, please reach out by calling the National Human***

**Trafficking Hotline at 1 (888) 373-7888.**

As always, stay safe and aware! Shannon



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