

Why Cybersecurity Matters

Small manufacturers are a vital part of our nation's economic and cyber infrastructure. There are over 289,000¹ small manufacturers in the U.S. In 2015, the average cost of a data breach for small companies was \$38,000². It has been estimated that more than half of the companies go out of business within six months of a cyber attack³.

For most small manufacturers, the security of your information, systems, and networks is not the highest priority given everything else you're faced with. But an information security or cybersecurity incident can be detrimental to the business, your customers, partners, or suppliers. It's important that manufacturers understand and manage the risk and establish a cybersecurity protocol to protect your most critical assets.

Five Steps to Reduce Cyber Risks

This resource is for small manufacturers to quickly and cost effectively address cybersecurity threats. These simple, low cost steps are based on the official NIST guidance from the Cybersecurity Framework and have been tailored to meet the needs of small companies so they can identify, assess and manage cybersecurity risks.

5 RECOVER

Make full backups of important business data and information

Continue to schedule incremental backups

Consider cyber insurance

Make improvements to processes/ procedures/ technologies

4 RESPOND

Develop a plan for disasters and information security incidents

1 IDENTIFY

Identify and control who has access to your business information

Conduct background checks

Require individual user accounts for each employee

Create policies and procedures for cybersecurity



2 PROTECT

Limit employee access to data and information

Install Surge Protectors and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)

Patch your operating systems and applications routinely

Install and activate software and hardware firewalls on all your business networks

Secure your wireless access point and networks

Set up web and email filters

Use encryption for sensitive business information

Dispose of old computers and media safely

Train your employees

3 DETECT

Install and update anti-virus, anti-spyware, and other anti-malware programs

Maintain and monitor logs

¹ 2014 County Business Patterns, United States Census Bureau

² 2015 Global IT Security Risks Survey, Kaspersky Lab

³ Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks, United States House of Representatives Committee on Small Business Cong. (April 22, 2015) (testimony of Dr. Jane LeClair)