## Win With Water!

Cybersecurity – The Time is NOW!



Have you ever been spammed, hacked, or had your personal computer crash? Then you know how invasive, aggravating, and time-consuming recovery can be. Imagine your bank, local food store, or public water supply held hostage by malevolent actors seeking ransom, or perhaps only a sick thrill.

In an increasingly automated society managing countless tasks by remote control, proper cybersecurity is not an option – it is a necessity. The time to act is now, starting with relatively

easy steps to greatly reduce risks from cyber-attacks, including:

- Password management. Use complex, random combinations for passwords. Require 2-step verifications. Allow systems access on a need-to-know basis. Pretend passwords are the locks to your house in a town full of strangers.
- System management. Web-based operating systems typically require periodic updates. Run your updates and security system checks on a regular basis.
- System testing. Engage a qualified professional to test your system for outside vulnerability then address the discovered weaknesses.

NH Department of Environmental Services has funds for <u>Cybersecurity Improvements Assistance</u>. Contact NHDES staff with questions regarding a program for your water utility.

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Put cybersecurity at the top of your critical to-do list today – you'll be glad you did!

**Win with Water!** is an informational series to raise awareness and provide actionable steps to public water system managers, administrators, and policy makers.

