



# CYBER SECURITY & YOU

JUNE 2023

LASERS

## *It's Hurricane Season,* **BE CAUTIOUS OF SCAMS RELATED TO NATURAL DISASTERS**



Cyber criminals are known to take advantage of natural disaster events, especially hurricanes. They target potential disaster victims by leveraging malicious websites, phishing attacks, and social media scams. It is important to remain vigilant for malicious activity during hurricane season.

**Posing as trustworthy organizations,** phony websites can use names very similar to legitimate disaster recovery charities, home improvement companies, or contractors. They use this scamming method to trick people into sending money or providing them with personal financial information. When searching for any of these online, you could be directed to a site that is not associated with the official one. Check the website address for swapped letters or if it is misspelled. If either is true, close the tab immediately.

**Search for reviews and potential scams.** If you can't determine whether a website is real or fake, type the website name accompanied by the word "reviews" or "scam" in the web browser. If there have been victims of a forged site, you should be able to find scam reports during the search. Reputable organizations

should have sufficient reviews to examine, so be cautious of generic or brief reviews as they could be fake.

**Phishing attacks** are another common scamming method in which fake organizations will request donations and other assistance. Use caution when clicking attachments and links in emails. Scammers hope you will click the links without thinking twice. Hover over links in emails that look suspicious and even on those from businesses, brands, or people you may know. If the link does not match the blue text or you can't tell where it leads, don't click it. If you do, you may end up on a malicious website and compromise your personal information.

As always, be cautious of texts, social media pleas, phone calls, and door-to-door solicitations related to natural disaster events. ■

### QUICK TIP

Find out how you can protect your information from the recent **MOVEit data breach**.

Visit [getagameplan.org](http://getagameplan.org) to build your family's preparedness kit.