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Cybersafety Tips

- Create strong passwords
 - Choose a sentence or two.
 - Take first letter of each word.
 - Capitalize vowels or half of the alphabet
 - Add a meaningful number
 - Throw in punctuation or symbol
 - Know what security measures your websites use to retrieve “lost” or forgotten passwords
 - Ensure those measures cannot be hacked by someone who knows you; pick answers that don’t answer the questions.
 - Security Settings
 - Use most restrictive settings; “Friends Only” is best. “Friends of Friends” is worthless.
 - Remember that you control whether friends, acquaintances, family, employers, or beyond see what you’re doing online
 - Do not click random links in emails
 - Banks, email providers, Facebook, eBay, Paypal will not ask you via email to supply your password or account information.
 - If you have any doubt about authenticity of an email, use a phone to call the company
 - Select professional-sounding email addresses for business use
 - Your personal quirks may not be viewed positively by employers
 - People are not always who they appear to be online. Stick to known people; don’t give access to people you can’t verify are who they say they are.
 - If it sounds too good to be true, it is.
 - Nigerian princes, family members with un-planned trips to Mexico or Europe who need money ASAP, software updates creating waterproof hardware . . .
 - Google is your friend for verifying suspicious emails. (snopes.com helps debunk internet rumors)
 - Be careful using file-sharing sites; you could be breaking the law and could introduce all sorts of viruses into your world.
 - Set up a password of any kind for your home wireless network. If it’s unsecured, anyone can use your connection to download anything.
 - Be aware of the technology in your life. Smart phones, game consoles, tablets . . . all have risks (along with benefits) associated with them. Google anything you don’t understand.
 - Do not retweet or share objectionable/bullying posts/pics
 - The creation, sending, receiving and/or possession of “sexting” pictures can be considered the manufacture, distribution, and/or possession of child pornography.
 - More information for internet safety for your kids:
 - www.netismartz.org (part of NCMEC)
- Eric Tamashasky, SJCPD, etamashasky@co.st-joseph.in.us, (574) 245-6556**