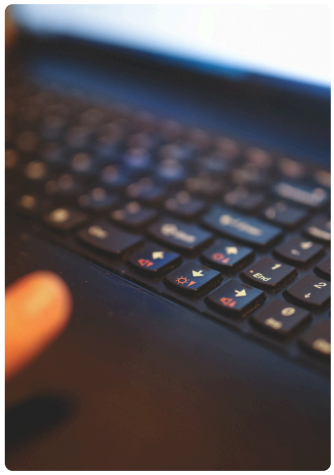
CYBERSECURITY KEYPOINTS

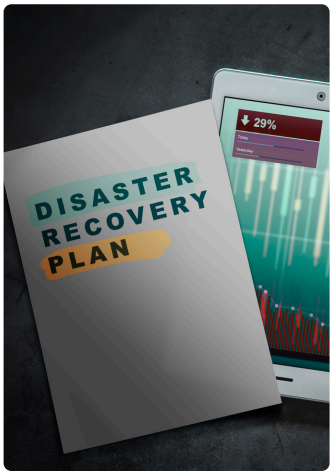
January 2026

From the County Network Security Cooperative

BACKUP BASICS

- Use the 3-2-1 rule: 3 copies of your important stuff stored on 2 different types of devices with 1 copy stored in a separate building from the other two. It works—no PhD required.
- Cloud backups run in the background and don't need babysitting. Plus, they can survive a coffee spill.
- Automate it: Set backups to run automatically.
- Test your backups: A backup that can't be restored is basically a decorative file. Check occasionally to make sure everything works.
- Keep things organized: Separate work files from personal ones. It makes recovery faster and prevents the "Where did I put that?" panic moment.





WHY BACKUPS MATTER

- **Ransomware doesn't negotiate politely.** If criminals lock up your data, a reliable backup lets you shrug and move on instead of paying.
- **Technology fails.** Hard drives break, servers crash, and sometimes, devices decide they're done "adulting."
- **Weather happens.** Floods, fires, storms—nature doesn't check your schedule. Off-site backups keep your data out of harm's way.
- **People make mistakes.** It's okay. We all click the wrong thing now and then. Thankfully, backups make those "oops" moments far less dramatic.

DISASTER RECOVERY: THE GAME PLAN

- Know where your important data is stored so you can restore it quickly.
- Create a simple recovery checklist for what to do if systems go down.
- Make sure multiple people know the process to avoid the "only one person knows how to fix this" trap.
- Review the plan once in a while. Technology changes; your plan should too.

BACKUPS & DISASTER RECOVERY

Let's be honest: Nobody wakes up excited about backing up files. It's not glamorous, and it doesn't come with applause. But—when something goes wrong (and it eventually does), backups are the quiet little heroes that save the day while you're busy wondering what just happened.

Disaster recovery is the process of putting everything back together when technology decides to throw a tantrum. Whether it's a power outage, a spilled coffee, or a surprise cyberattack, having a plan keeps small problems from turning into full-blown crises. Think of it as giving your digital world a safety net instead of crossing your fingers & hoping for the best.

Let's keep it simple and stress-free.

The County Network Security Cooperative is a collaboration of partners including:

- AND -

NIRMA
Serving County Government

Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.