

Cyber Security During Natural Disasters

During a natural disaster, people have an innate tendency to want to help their neighbor or to get additional information or updates about the event. Unfortunately, hackers know this and will try to exploit your generosity and curiosity. While the average person is thinking of ways to help, hackers are thinking of ways to take advantage of people while their guard is lowered.

Davenport is committed to ensuring that our clients are safe, especially when a natural disaster strikes. Just like you gather flashlights, bottled water, and emergency supplies, you can prepare yourself by reviewing the guidelines below and being aware of cyber threats to your information.



GUIDELINES:

- **Ensure the organizations in which you are contributing money to are legitimate.**

Only donate to organizations or charities you trust. Go directly to their site or type their website address in your browser rather than doing a search. Charity navigator is a great resource for checking validity of organizations (<https://www.charitynavigator.com>).

- **Be careful what emails you open.**

Do not open links or e-mail attachments from people you do not know. During a disaster, hackers may send phishing e-mails (malicious e-mails) with subjects like “Hurricane Relief,” “Donate now” or “Hurricane Florence storm damage updates,” or any other combination of catchy titles to get you to click their links or open their attached documents. The links or documents contain malware that allow a hacker easy access to your computer.

- **Protect your computer or device with a reputable virus scanning software.**

You can find PC Magazine’s informative article that reviews available antivirus software here: (<https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2372364,00.asp>)