

Welcome back to the Public Health Preparedness Press!



Each month, this newsletter will keep you informed about seasonal preparedness topics, public health awareness campaigns, and tools you can use both in your work and in your everyday life. Whether it's extreme weather, emergency planning, or national health observances, we're here to keep preparedness top of mind year-round.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month! This year's theme, *Building a Cyber Strong America*, highlights the vital role of local governments, small businesses, and private partners in protecting the nation's critical infrastructure. Cyber threats never take a day off—CISA urges every organization to take one step today to strengthen their cybersecurity.



Key Reminders:

- **Everyone has a role to play**—from government agencies to small businesses to private vendors, protecting infrastructure is a shared responsibility.
- **Critical infrastructure is local**—much of what sustains daily life is owned and operated by state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and private companies.
- **Supply chains matter**—vendors, suppliers, and connected partners are just as important to securing systems and services.
- **Cyber threats are constant**—attackers don't rest, which means ongoing vigilance and action are essential.
- **Take one step today**—CISA encourages organizations of all sizes to make at least one improvement to their cybersecurity resilience this month.

Fire Prevention Week

October 5–11 is Fire Prevention Week! This year's theme, Charge into Fire Safety, focuses on lithium-ion battery safety. Remember to **Buy, Charge, and Recycle responsibly** to reduce fire risks in your home and community.

Charge into Fire Safety: 3 Steps

- **Buy only listed products** – Look for safety certification marks such as UL, ETL, or CSA to ensure the product meets safety standards.

- **Charge devices safely** – Always use manufacturer-approved cords and chargers, follow instructions, charge on hard surfaces, and unplug once fully charged.
- **Recycle responsibly** – Never toss lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins. Instead, take them to a certified battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](https://www.call2recycle.org) to find a site near you.



Over **25,000** fire incidents in the U.S between 2017 and 2022.



338 fires related to e-bikes and e-scooters in 2023 alone.

What's Next?

In future issues of the Public Health Preparedness Press, we'll continue exploring topics that matter to our work and our community, like emergency communication, public health response roles, and seasonal hazards.

If you have ideas, questions, or want to highlight team efforts in preparedness, reach out! Let's make this a helpful, interactive resource for everyone.

Thanks for reading! 😊