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For Immediate Release

Wisconsin Establishes Cyber Response Teams
Teams help avoid and recover from cyber attacks

(MADISON) – Wisconsin has a new weapon in the fight against cyber attacks. Known as State, Local, Tribal and Territorial, or SLTT Cyber Response Teams, these experts are trained and available to assist local units of government to respond to and prevent cyber incidents.

Team member selection and training began in 2015 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and funding from local governments across Wisconsin taking part in the teams. They focus on several key areas of cyber security:

- Prevention: Teaching government agencies how to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual cyber attacks. This includes virus and phishing prevention and improved cyber network defenses.
- Response: Provide the latest information and techniques to help local jurisdictions unable to respond to a cyber attack due to the scope of that incident.
- Recovery: Assist communities affected by a cyber incident to recover effectively and quickly.

"Just as we have the ability to respond to tornadoes and floods across Wisconsin, it is critical that we build our capability to respond to cyber emergencies," says Major General Don Dunbar, Adjutant General and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor. "These SLTT Cyber Response Teams have already helped many Wisconsin communities recover from and prevent cyber incidents."

Cyber attacks on government generally fall under two categories. First, community or agency websites are targeted by bad actors intending to shut down the site in protest of another event. These are generally done through Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. Second, cybercriminals try to fool government employees into accessing information or diverting funds. These are generally done by phishing emails.

"Think of these SLTT Teams as a cyber version of your local fire department," says Bill Nash, Director, Bureau of Security at the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology. "Fire departments urge people to install smoke detectors to alert you to a fire in your home. They also have the people and equipment to respond to a fire when one occurs. The same is true of these teams in helping detect and respond to a cyber event."

Currently, Wisconsin has three SLTT Cyber Response Teams. The goal is to have a total of six teams in place across the state. Individuals interested in joining and training with these teams are encourage to contact the teams by email: sltt.cyber@wisconsin.gov.

Government agencies in Wisconsin needing cyber assistance should call the Wisconsin Emergency Management 24-Hour Duty Officer Hotline at 1-800-943-0003.

Each week this October, ReadyWisconsin is highlighting efforts to keep everyone in Wisconsin safe from cybercrime. Visit http://readywisconsin.wi.gov for more information. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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