

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

Florida Fusion Center 21-147

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Holiday Threats

With the holiday season in full swing, criminal actors may try to take advantage of the season to carry out criminal activity. Although many of these threats are prevalent year-round, it's important to remain vigilant during the holiday season.

Cyberattacks - Cyber criminals may attempt to take advantage of businesses and consumers during the holiday season as some organizations have reduced staff, office closures, or experience an increase in financial transactions. Cyber criminals may use phishing, distributed denial of service, ransomware, and other cyberattacks to exploit organizations and individuals. These attacks can disrupt organizations' operations, cause financial damage, put the public at risk, and lead to personal identifiable or credit card information theft from consumers.

[Reminder for Critical Infrastructure to Stay Vigilant Against Threats During Holidays and Weekends](#)

[As the holiday season approaches, threats to supply chain, e-commerce and travel soar](#)

Skimmers - As consumer shopping increases this month, cyber criminals may increase efforts to obtain credit card and personal identifiable information. The use of credit card skimmers at physical point of sales locations, or as malicious codes embedded in compromised e-commerce websites, allow criminals to collect credit card, and sometimes, personal information, from consumers for future illegal use.

[Hackers use Linux backdoor on compromised e-commerce sites with software skimmer](#)

[Officials warn of gas station skimmers during holiday travel](#)

Theft - Businesses may experience an uptick in theft during the holidays. Criminal actors may take advantage of large shopping crowds and shipments to commit retail, cargo, or package delivery theft. Criminal actors may work independently or in groups to overwhelm businesses and steal merchandise. Criminal actors may also target cargo by breaking into or stealing the trailers. Businesses can increase facility security and work with local law enforcement to ensure consumer, retail, and cargo safety and security.

[Downtown Chicago businesses fear for safety amid rash of thefts during holiday shopping season](#)

[How Cargo Theft Stole Christmas](#)

[PCPD: porch pirate theft is up this holiday season](#)



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Scams - Organizations and individuals may experience an increase in scam attempts by criminal actors over the holidays. Criminal actors may use a variety of tactics such as the non-delivery scams where a criminal actor claims to sell an item but the item is never delivered. Another tactic is the non-payment scam where the criminal actor purchases goods or services which are shipped by a seller but never paid for by the purchaser.

[Ho, Ho, Ho, Holiday Scams!](#)

[FBI Jacksonville warns of scams affecting local shoppers](#)

Targeted attacks and mass violence – While at this time there is no known credible threat to Florida, holiday gatherings such as parades, shopping, and other events remain attractive targets for criminal or terrorist actors to attempt to carry out targeted attacks. Common tactics include vehicle ramming, shootings, stabbings, use of explosive devices, and other attack types. Organizations and law enforcement can work together increase security measures to protect consumers and participants, particularly where large crowds are expected.

[2016 Berlin Christmas market: 12 dead, 48 hospitalized in truck crash](#)
[5 stabbed at rabbi's house on Hanukkah; suspect arraigned](#)

Resources:

Multiple agencies offer information, resources, and mitigation techniques for organizations and individuals to prepare for and protect against these threats.

- **Cyber:** The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has [holiday online shopping](#) safety tips and resources. CISA also offers [cybersecurity training and exercises](#) for organizations. Additionally, [Secure Florida](#) has online shopping tips and provides free training for organizations and individuals to protect themselves from cyber threats.
- **Skimming:** The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers information and mitigation techniques for organizations and consumers to protect against [physical skimmers](#) and [e-skimming](#). The Federal Bureau of Investigation also provides techniques for businesses and government agencies to [build a digital defense against e-skimming](#).
- **Scams:** The Federal Trade Commission provides information on [avoiding and reporting scams](#). The FBI offers additional information on [holiday scams](#) while the Florida Attorney General released a [2021 holiday consumer protection guide](#).
- **Targeted attacks and physical theft:** “If You See Something, Say Something®” – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) website using [Florida's See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#), via the Florida See Say app, or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911. Also, visit the [BusinesSafe](#) website for additional sector specific resources for critical infrastructure organizations to identify and report threats.



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