COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR CYBERSECURITY

Sector Overview

This resource is for stakeholders in Florida's Communications sector, including:

- Telecommunications providers
- Wireless and satellite companies
- Internet service providers (ISPs)
- Broadcasting organizations

Ransomware Threat Profile

Only 22% of Florida communications organizations meet Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ransomware readiness standards. This sector depends on complex network infrastructure, interconnected service platforms, and large-scale data systems. These dependencies, combined with the need for uninterrupted service, make it a frequent ransomware target.

Emergency Communication Networks

The sector is critical to public safety, economic stability, and daily connectivity.

A ransomware incident can disrupt essential services, block emergency alerts, and impact both government operations and private business across the state.

Top Vulnerabilities

▶ Legacy & Hybrid Networks

▶ Exploitable Broadcast & Public Interfaces

▶ 24/7 Service Pressure

▶ Emergency Services Dependencies

▶ Under-Resourced Rural Providers

Notable Incidents

▶ **Rogers Communications Outage (2022):** A massive outage cut mobile, internet, & business communications for millions, disrupting emergency services & commerce. This highlighted how failures in large networks can affect Florida users & critical services.

▶ **Dish Network Ransomware Attack (2023):** Ransomware disrupted broadcasting & call center operations & online account services. Customers in Florida & nationwide experienced extended outages, billing problems & missed programming.

State-Funded Resources & Education

Technical Tools

- **Florida Cyber Risk Assessment Ransomware Readiness** (https://cyberflorida.org/cip/)
- **FCC Communications Security, Reliability & Interoperability Council (CSRIC)** (https://www.fcc.gov/csric)

Templates & Planning

- **Cyber Florida Incident Response Plan Templates** *Available Upon Request*
- **NIST Cybersecurity Framework** (https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework)
- **FCC Cybersecurity Planning Guide** (https://www.fcc.gov/cyberplanner)

State-Funded Resources

- **FIU Cyber Leadership Courses** (https://gordoninstitute.fiu.edu/cybersecurity-policy/training/cybersecureflorida/index.html)
- **CISA Cyber Hygiene Services** *Free Assessments & Scans* (https://www.cisa.gov/resourcestools/ programs/cyberhygiene-services)