

Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

Much like you secure your house against intruders to keep yourself and your family safe, you should also secure your digital personal information. Cyberattacks called phishing are attempts to obtain personal information like passwords so that your identity can be stolen. Phishing attempts are on the rise, and can come through emails, calls, texts, and social media platforms.

Use these precautions to safeguard your identity:

- **Phishing emails** may include links or attachments that when opened can steal information. Do not open any attachments or links in emails from unknown senders or unexpected emails unless you can verify where they came from.
- **Beware of fake calls (vishing).** Major companies like Amazon, Apple, banks, or services like the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), will not call you requesting personal information like passwords or Social Security numbers. These calls are fake. Do not call numbers back if the voicemail discusses “compromised accounts.” Instead, check your accounts online, or find the dedicated customer service line provided by the company through their official paperwork or website.
- **Fake Texts (Smishing):** Do not answer texts from unknown numbers looking for passwords, bank information, or other sensitive information. Verify with the institution the text claims to be from by calling the dedicated customer service line provided by the company through their official paperwork or website.
- **Finally, watch out for social media phishing.** These attempts may appear as messages from fake accounts. Make sure to keep your personal information private and do not interact with fake accounts. Do not log in to a secondary site if the direct message asks you to, even if the account is familiar because it may have been hacked.

Protect your personal information with the following steps:

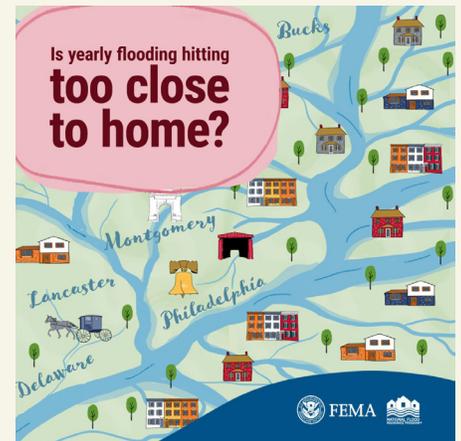
- Create unique passwords of at least 12 characters and use letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Keep security programs, browser plugins, and all other software up to date.
- Enable two-factor authentication where possible.
- Ensure you have updated antivirus software before you go online.
- Regularly back up your files on multiple drives in case a device fails.
- Set up a credit monitoring service to know when you have been compromised so you can act quickly. ●

One little thing...

The Township stormwater drainage system generally consists of street inlets, piping, and in some cases endwalls. The design of the system has evolved over time as codes and regulations have changed, with some portions of the overall system capable of handling about 5 inches of rainfall and others capable of handling about 7.5 inches of rainfall. In cases where the system was designed to handle 5 inches of rainfall (typically older developments circa 1960-1980's), you may see some temporary ponding at inlets in the roadway if more than 5 inches of rainfall occurs, which is normal.

However, if you are witnessing excessive, long periods of ponding that extend well beyond the end of the rain, that is a sign that something could be wrong with the system that is beyond its design limitations. Usually, it means that something in the system is clogged and is only letting a fraction of the intended stormwater through. Over the years, the Township has cleared excessive sediments, debris, balls, frisbees, trash, fireplace ashes, and all kinds of foreign materials from inlets and piping that were clogging it.

While the Township routinely inspects its storm drainage system a few times per year, there are over 1500 inlets in the Township and any one of them can become clogged with something literally overnight. One little thing you can do to help the Township identify pipes and inlets that need to be cleaned is to notify us when you see a situation of excessive ponding mentioned above, so we can schedule to investigate the system and clean it if necessary. Sometimes this is a relatively easy process and other times it involves the use of expensive vacuum and jet trucks to clear whatever may be in the system causing the issue and as is always the case, “a stitch in time saves nine.” ●



Should You Get Flood Insurance?

Consider this: Every city has unexpected flood risks that can put your home in danger—even if it's far from a water source. Just one inch of water can cause roughly \$25,000 in damage. With flood insurance, you can make out-of-pocket costs a thing of the past. Learn more at www.floodsmart.gov/PAflooding.