Business & Technology Factsheet

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RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Toolkit

Key Highlights

NRECA's RC3 cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Toolkit can benefit cooperatives by:

- Engaging staff who previously did not recognize cybersecurity as a relevant concern.
- Allowing staff to learn from real-world scenarios that reveal gaps and weaknesses that may exist in a cooperative's cyber defenses.
- Encouraging cross-departmental team-building to plan effective responses to cyber incidents.
- Enabling cooperatives, regardless of the level of in-house IT capabilities, to practice their incident response capabilities using relevant cybersecurity exercise scenarios.
- ***Please note: The RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit (TTX) scenarios can be conducted in a virtual environment through a coordinated web conference and do not require participants to assemble at the same location.***

Overview

Electric cooperatives have been responding to physical outages since electric lines were first energized but cyberattacks are relatively new and ever-changing. Co-op staff may not have experience in detecting or resolving cyber incidents, and related roles and responsibilities may be insufficiently defined or not well understood.

A tabletop exercise (TTX) for cybersecurity provides a structured opportunity to test an organization's ability to assess and respond to a potentially damaging cyber incident. Tabletop exercises are intended as cross-functional team activities, where representatives from various departments throughout an organization work together on a solution.

Through funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, NRECA and cybersecurity consultant Delta Risk, LLC designed the RC3 cybersecurity do-it-yourself Tabletop Exercise Toolkit (TTX Toolkit) for distribution cooperatives with a range of in-house information technology (IT) and cybersecurity capabilities. The TTX Toolkit provides co-ops with opportunities to enhance cybersecurity preparedness by providing relevant scenarios with real world implications. With the Toolkit, cooperatives can run tabletop exercises with staff from different departments in the cooperative, to raise cybersecurity awareness and preparedness, and to emphasize that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility – not just IT's.

The RC3 TTX Toolkit includes a user guide, checklists, situation manuals, and a sample set of a dozen cybersecurity scenarios for a variety of skill levels within the cooperative community. With the TTX Toolkit, cooperatives will be able to test and validate their organization's incident response plans and capabilities, as well as identify existing gaps and areas for improvement.

Additional Resources

- NRECA Cybersecurity websites:
  - RC3 Website Page
  - Cybersecurity Website Page
- Article: Tabletop Exercises In Cybersecurity Help Cooperatives Prepare For "The Real Thing"
- Article: "Cybersecurity Needs to Be Job One for Everyone"
- Sign-up for NRECA's twice monthly newsletter, *TechUpdate*

Contacts for Questions

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