

Conference of Western Attorneys General-Cybersecurity Working Group

Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Considerations for Attorneys General

1. State governments and critical infrastructure assets within each state are at risk from cybersecurity attacks that could disrupt the normal operations of government and impact basic safety and economic security for the state and its citizens.
2. Cyber disruption response planning is essential – engagement with lifeline critical infrastructure providers, including electricity and communications companies, should be a top priority.
3. Effective communications and partnerships among government and critical infrastructure providers is imperative before, during, and after disruptions and will ensure more effective coordination and response efforts.
4. Attorneys General should play an important role in the development of a cybersecurity public information plan.
5. Given the significant increase in cyber (computer or Internet based) attacks, state governments should closely coordinate with Attorneys General, state emergency operations centers, and lifeline critical infrastructure providers (including electricity and communications providers) to develop a disaster response plan and prioritization response mechanisms¹. These groups should also consider how to participate in related preparation drills and exercises.
6. State governments should work closely with a variety of information sources such as Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) (including the Multi-State ISAC), Communications ISAC, and the Electricity ISAC. In addition, state government officials may leverage a variety of federal resources, including Fusion Centers, to facilitate threat and information sharing; both ahead of and during an event.

Recommended Action Items:

Near Term: Attorneys General, in collaboration with their state emergency management operations centers, should acquire and maintain contact information for their critical infrastructure providers, particularly those serving major population centers.

Intermediate Term: In collaboration with their state emergency management operations centers and in partnership with critical infrastructure providers, Attorneys General should develop and test disaster response plans that exercise interaction between state government and critical infrastructure providers.

Contribution Provided By: Edison Electric Institute and CenturyLink

¹ Prioritization may refer to:

1. Who should receive assistance first,
2. What community or facilities should be restored first,
3. Focus of interest (e.g. law enforcement investigation, evidence collection, prosecution vs. restoration)