Stay Safe Online

A safe neighborhood is not just about safe streets—it's also about protecting ourselves and our families online.

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Protect your personal information

- Create **strong passwords**—mix uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols.
- Try fun, **easy to remember phrases** like: iLik3ColdPizza or D@ncingInTheRainI$Fun
- Do **not** share your passwords with anyone.
- Use **different passwords** for different accounts.
- Write down password hints and store them somewhere **safe**—not on your computer! Even better, **use a password manager**.

Keep your devices safe

- Keep your computer and apps **updated**.
- Only open emails, links, or downloads if you're sure they're **safe**.
- Use **anti-virus software**.
- Do **not** install programs from websites you do not trust.
- **Back up** your important files to a USB drive, external hard drive, or cloud service.

Help your community stay safe

- **Share these tips** with your friends, family, and neighbors.
- Visit **ready.gov** for safety resources.
- **Report suspicious activity** to:
  - Minneapolis Police Department
  - www.ic3.gov
  - www.reportfraud.ftc.gov

Talk to your kids about online safety

- Teach kids **not** to share passwords or personal information.
- Explain that "free" downloads can **hide viruses or scams**.
- Use **real-life examples** to teach about online dangers.
- Know which apps and social networks they use—and **stay connected with them online**.

Connect with care

- Look for **https** at the start of web addresses—the "s" means secure.
- Use a **strong password** on your home Wi-Fi and turn on **WPA2 encryption**.
- Set your browser's **privacy settings** and **block pop-ups**.
- **Hover** over a link before you click to see where it really goes.
  - ✓ service@paypal.com = **Good**
  - ✗ service@paypal.com.clickz.com = **Scam!**

Watch out for scams

- **Be alert!** Scammers use emails, pop-ups, or fake ads to steal your information.
- **Never** share personal information like your Social Security number or credit card in an email.
- If something seems suspicious, do **not** click on it!

To learn more, scan the QR code to visit the City of Minneapolis website.