Coleman Police Department

Committed to our Residents, **O**rganizational Pride, **L**eading by Example, **E**xcellent Customer Service, **M**aking a Difference, **A**ccountable for our actions, **N**ever settle for less – We are **COLEMAN**

Public Service Announcement from the Coleman Police Department

Cyber Holiday Tips PSA

Holiday shopping is already in full swing. Unfortunately, this also means there will be more cybercrimes and card-not-present fraud. Don't let a cyber Grinch ruin your holidays. Use these Pre-Santa Arrival (PSA) cyber security tips to protect yourself online during this holiday season.

Use common sense when shopping online. If a deal seems too good to be true, assume it is a scam. If you think an email is fake, it probably is. Be skeptical rather than trusting.

Watch out for Seasonal Scams. Cyber criminals send **fake holiday e-cards** with malicious links and steal personal information. Beware of **shipping notification scams**, as packages may arrive later than usual this season. **Charity donation scams** are also an issue during the holiday season.

Shop only at sites you know and use a credit card instead of a debit card. Secure websites should use **https**. The "s" means secure. Look for the padlock icon in the URL. Credit cards offer fraud protection.

Keep Software updated and use current anti-virus protection software.

Don't Auto Save. Don't store your credit card information via auto save, hackers can potentially access information. The little bit of extra time it takes to re-enter your credit card information each time you want to make a purchase, will ease your mind and possibly curb the impulse buying.

Avoid public Wi-Fi. Public Wi-Fi sounds like a good idea, but cyber criminals take advantage of it. Use a VPN if absolutely needed.

Use Strong Passwords/Passphrases and Multi-Factor Authentication. Change those passwords often.

Go Directly to the Source. Go directly to the merchant's website or call customer service to verify rather than clicking any links inside an email. Hover over the link to see the URL where you would be taken if you clicked it. Unsure copy and paste links into a different browser window for review.

Check Your Statements. Look over credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges.

Never (ever ever) give out your personal information online. An email or text message requesting personal information, such as your credit card number, is likely a scam.