

Cyber Security 1 — Montana Health Department Hacked



We're just now learning about this. Some are asking the obvious questions A) why did the attack happen and how did the hackers manage to get through and B) why did it take so long for the hacking of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to become public knowledge?

The department said a year ago — last July — the personal information of 1.3 million people was hacked. What's ironic is the state only has a population of around one-million.

The cyber attack went undiscovered until May 22nd of this year. Close to six-weeks after the discovery people are being notified. These are residents, former residents and the families of residents who are now dead.

Richard Opper who is the director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services said at this point officials have no idea who the hackers are or what they actually got in the attack. "There is no information, no indication, that the hackers really accessed any of this information or used it inappropriately. We are erring on the side of displaying an overabundance of caution."

Here's what the state does know. The attacked servers included addresses, birth dates, Social Security numbers and medical records. All victims — Opper said — will be given a credit card monitoring service and identity fraud insurance for a year.

The problem is even worse for 3,100 employees of the department. Their bank account information was on the attacked servers.

The state is upgrading the servers and server security. Opper said the state gets 17,000 hacking attempts every hour. That's every single hour of every single day. The number hits six-billion attempts a year.