June 15, 2006	Risk WATCH	SPECIAL FEATURE

Readers:

The Risk Management Division is introducing a companion communication piece to Highlights called ***"Risk Watch".*** *It is a brief one-topic feature designed to alert agencies to emerging or high profile risk management issues. "Risk Watch" will appear under the "Risk Management Highlights" banner to alert agencies to issues, events, or topics that may simply heighten awareness or require some level of risk management attention based on the nature of the risk topic being featured.*

"Risk Watch" Topic*: *Security of Laptop Computers

It's a topic that has been hitting the headlines all too often lately--stolen laptop computers and potentially comprised data. The impact can be a simple physical loss of computer hardware. Or, the loss can be potentially more significant if it results in theft of or criminal use of sensitive data stored on the laptop or other electronic device. DIS continues to develop information on ways to mitigate this risk. Their current security tips for laptop safety are provided in the link below. In the meantime, the Risk Management Division is offering these additional tips to help agencies increase loss prevention efforts to mitigate the loss of laptop computers.

Examine agency policies to determine if there is adequate controls in place that discuss:

- Protocol for physical lap top security in the home, office, and in other business related settings such as conferences, meetings, hotel rooms, and vehicles.
- Protocol for employees taking the laptops home and equipment they are to be transported in.
- Protocol for locking in or removing laptops from docking stations.
- Designation of appropriate/approved data to be stored on laptops.
- Designation personnel approved to access or store data on laptops.
- Protocol for using approved data on laptops routinely used outside of the office that includes a combination of the agency's technical and physical security features and requirements.

Topic Links:

- Department of Information Services' *TechNews* security tips - "Protect Your Portable Technology Devices" - http://dis.wa.gov/technews/2006_02/20060209.aspx.

- Absolute Software site's PC Theft and Recovery Statistics - http://www.absolute.com/Public/main/laptop-theft-statistics.asp - For instance,

Safeware Insurance reported that in 2003 there were 600,000 laptop thefts reported, totaling an estimated $5.4 billion in theft of proprietary information. The Gartner Group reported in 2002 that the chances of a laptop being stolen this year are 1 in 10.

- June 14, 2006 state government news story Re: State of Minnesota: "3 Laptops Apparently Stolen from State Auditor's Office" - http://www.startribune.com/462/story/490333.html

- June 13, 2006 state government news story Re: State of Louisiana: "LSU Beefs Up Computer Security" - http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/3040126.html

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