



OKLAHOMA  
BANKERS  
ASSOCIATION

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*\*\*\* This is the first of four releases about cyber security. Releases will be distributed on Tuesdays in October.*

# **Oklahoma bankers provide cyber security tips for protecting mobile devices**

*October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The number of attacks on mobile devices is growing, in part as a result of the increased popularity of mobile banking. According to a 2013 report by the Federal Reserve, 87 percent of the U.S. population has a mobile phone and 52 percent have smartphones. Of those mobile phone users, 28 percent have performed banking transaction in the past 12 months.

“The rise in the popularity of mobile devices has certainly made them a target for cybercriminals. The types of attacks we’re seeing have generally been used on PCs but are now making their way to other devices,” said Elaine Dodd, OBA vice president – fraud. “Banks work hard to protect customer information and customers play an important role in keeping their information safe. Any device used to connect to the Internet is at risk and we urge customers to keep safety measures in place.”

In recognition of National Cyber Security Awareness Month, Oklahoma community banks, in partnership with the Oklahoma Bankers Association, recommend consumers take extra precaution to protect the data on their mobile devices by doing the following:

- **Use the passcode lock on your smartphone and other devices.** This will make it more difficult for thieves to access your information if your device is lost or stolen;
- **Log out completely** when you finish a mobile banking session;
- **Protect your phone from viruses** and malicious software, or malware, just like you do for your computer by installing mobile security software;
- **Use caution when downloading apps.** Apps can contain malicious software, worms and viruses. Beware of apps that ask for unnecessary “permissions”;
- **Download the updates** for your phone and mobile apps;

- **Avoid storing sensitive information** like passwords or a social security number on your mobile device;
- **Tell your financial institution immediately if you change your phone number** or lose your mobile device;
- **Be aware of shoulder surfers.** The most basic form of information theft is observation. Be aware of your surroundings especially when you're punching in sensitive information;
- **Wipe your mobile device before you donate,** sell or trade it using specialized software or using the manufacturer's recommended technique. Some software allows you to wipe your device remotely if it is lost or stolen; and
- **Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.**

The OBA conducts more than 70 educational programs and seminars each year, which reach more than 5,000 bankers across the state. The Association represents approximately 230 banks across the state and serves as the primary advocate for the banking industry. It's also heavily involved in fraud training and prevention as well as legal and compliance services and communications for its member banks.

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