

Special Districts Association of Oregon



Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology

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Oregon Special Districts

- 1,000+ special districts located in every region of the state
- 954 special districts are members of SDAO
- 34 types of special districts
- 4,350 locally elected volunteer board members
- Special districts of some type provide services to nearly every Oregonian
- 350 districts operate exclusively with volunteers
- 350+ districts with annual budgets under \$100,000

Types of Districts / SDAO Member Profile

- Airport: 1 
- Ambulance: 5 
- Cemetery Maintenance: 38 
- County Service: 19 
- Domestic Water Supply: 97 
- Drainage: 25 
- Emergency Communication: 6 
- Fire Protection: 252 
- Health: 28 
- Highway Lighting: 1 
- Irrigation: 58 
- Library: 24 
- Mass Transit: 2 
- Park and Recreation: 53 

- People's Utility: 13 
- Ports: 22 
- Predator Control: 1 
- Radio and Data: 2 
- Road Assessment: 14 
- Sanitary: 46 
- Soil and Water Conservation: 45 
- Special Road: 70 
- Translator: 1 
- Transportation: 9 
- Vector Control: 16 
- Water Control: 24 
- Water Improvement: 45 

Weed control, metropolitan service, sand removal, diking, and weather modification are also types of special districts in Oregon but not represented in SDAO membership.



Member Cyber Survey

- 400 Districts Responded

Question	No
Does your district require all endpoint devices to be encrypted?	77%
Does your district provide users access to a password manager to store and create secure passwords?	74%
Does your district require multi-factor authentication for remote access (e.g. like a VPN and Email?)	66%
Does your district configure accounts to lock after 5 consecutive failed login attempts?	64%
Does your district ensure that only district owned devices are connected to the corporate wireless network (no personal devices)?	61%
Does your district require a minimum password length of no less than 8 characters?	50%
Does your district restrict users from being administrators on their workstations?	45%

Member Cyber Survey

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Question	No
Does your district ensure that the password to any corporate wireless network (not guest wireless) is not provided to end users, but is only known by key personnel?	39%
Does your district perform daily backups of all data that is essential to your operations?	37%
Does your district utilize a firewall between the district's internal network and any external, untrusted network (i.e., internet)?	36%
Does your district utilize a tool or service that monitors emails for malicious files, spam, and phishing emails?	36%
Does your district utilize an endpoint protection tool (sometimes referred to as antivirus) on all devices?	32%
Does your district maintain at least one copy of your data backups offsite (e.g. cloud or different facility)?	30%

Lessons Learned

- Much of Oregon's critical infrastructure is operated by special districts
- Estimated that less than 50 special districts have fulltime IT staff
- Critical lack of financial recourses to address the problem
- Need funding to:
 - Provide statewide staff training on cyber awareness and social engineering
 - Purchase endpoint monitoring services
 - Implement multi-factor authentication
 - Consulting that includes security assessments and penetration testing
 - Uniform standards and training for administrators
- **Mandates without financial support will not be feasible**

For more information about
our services available to our
member districts, visit:

www.sdao.com

**Special Districts
Association of Oregon**

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