

Cybersecurity Through Collaboration

Cybersecurity Resources for Public Power Utilities

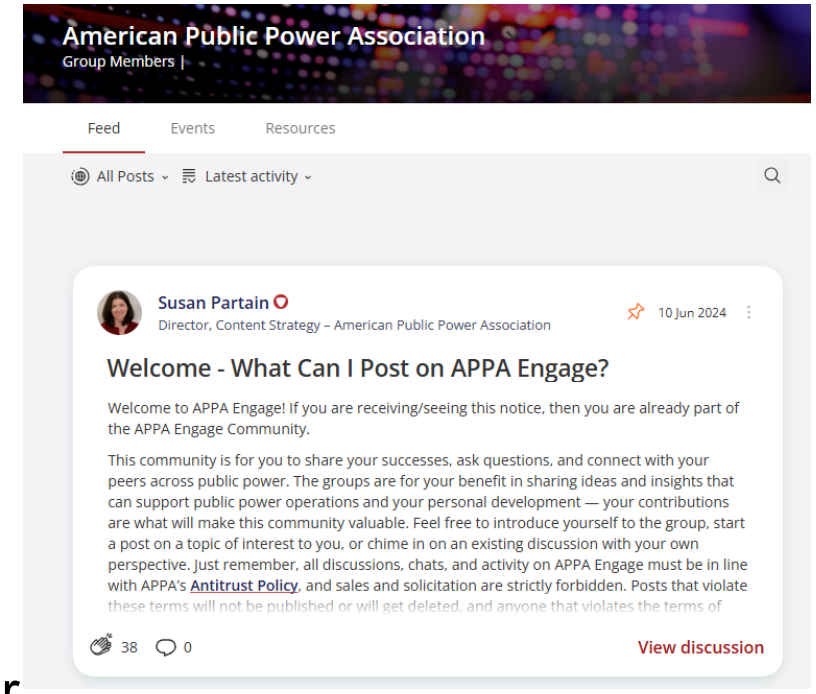
Christopher Ching

October 7, 2026

PublicPower.org

APPA Programs and Efforts

- **Resources**: APPA produces **security-related resources** for members and hosts the **Engage** platform for information-sharing and peer-to-peer discussions
- **Events:** APPA hosts **cybersecurity webinars** as well as our annual **Cybersecurity & Technology Summit**
- **CDC**: APPA's **Cybersecurity Defense Community** is a group for members interested in cybersecurity, which meets regularly to share resources and opportunities
- **CAP**: APPA's **Cybersecurity Accelerator Program** is a designation program to help members assess and improve the maturity of their cyber program, next cycle opens Spring 2027



CYBERSECURITY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Find out more at: https://www.publicpower.org/security

Cyber Pathways Program

$4M

over four years

Rural and Municipal Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program

Cybersecurity training and maturity improvements for resource-limited public power utilities

MAIN OBJECTIVES

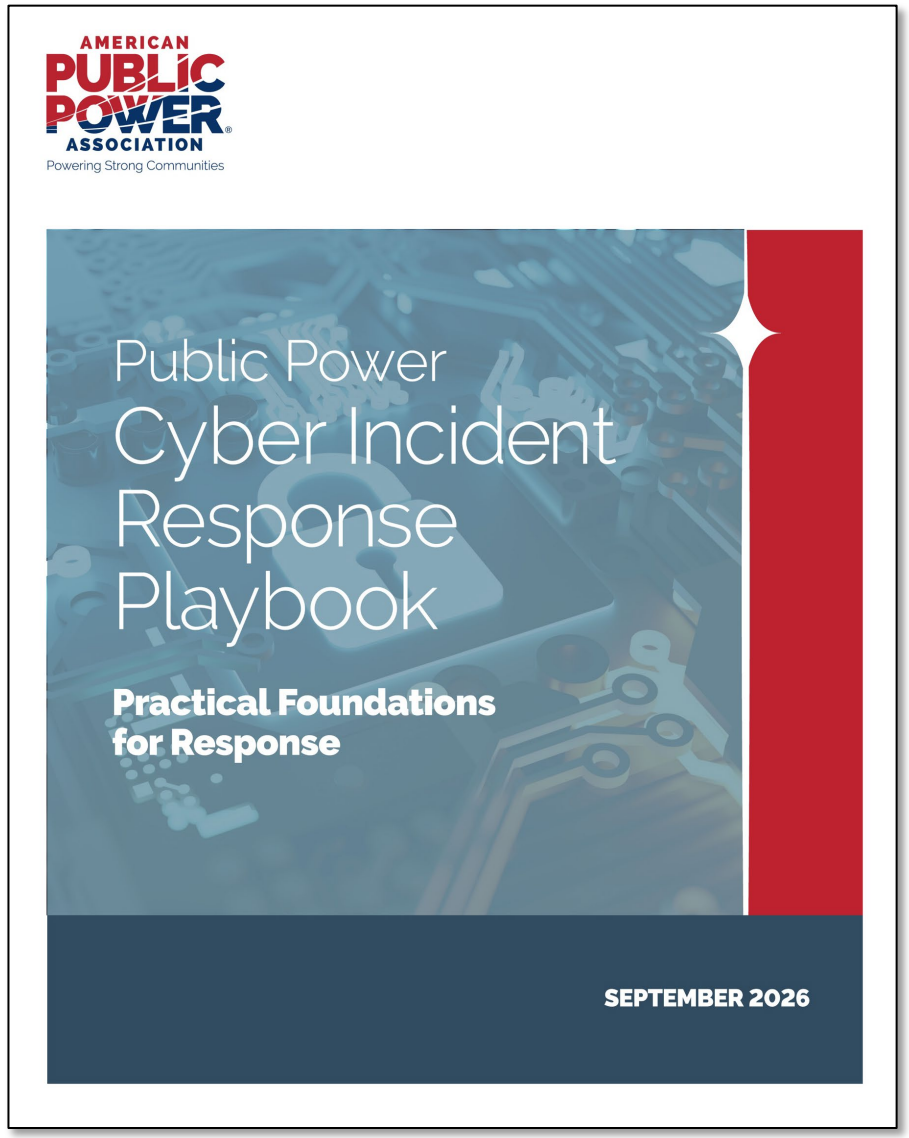
- **Fund and evaluate cybersecurity training options for public power utilities**
- **Develop and launch a cybersecurity designation program to recognize and encourage excellence**
- **Increase participation in E-ISAC, MS-ISAC, and cyber mutual assistance programs**
- **Develop new cybersecurity training course(s) to address community needs**

Find out more at: PublicPower.org/cyber-pathways

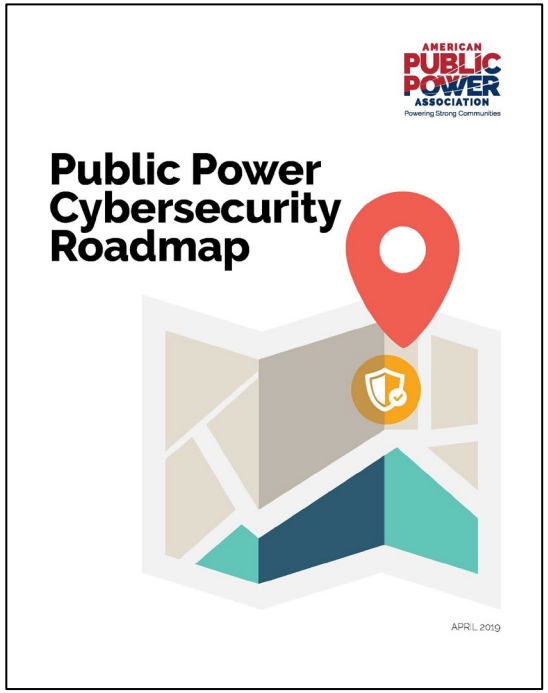
Practical Foundations for Response

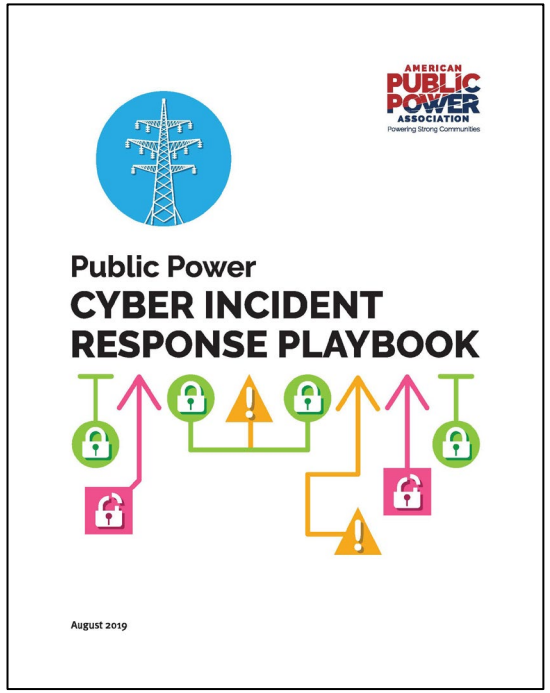
- APPA's newest cybersecurity publication
- A starting point for those new to developing and implementing cyber incident response plans
- Highlights key elements from the comprehensive Cyber Incident Response Playbook

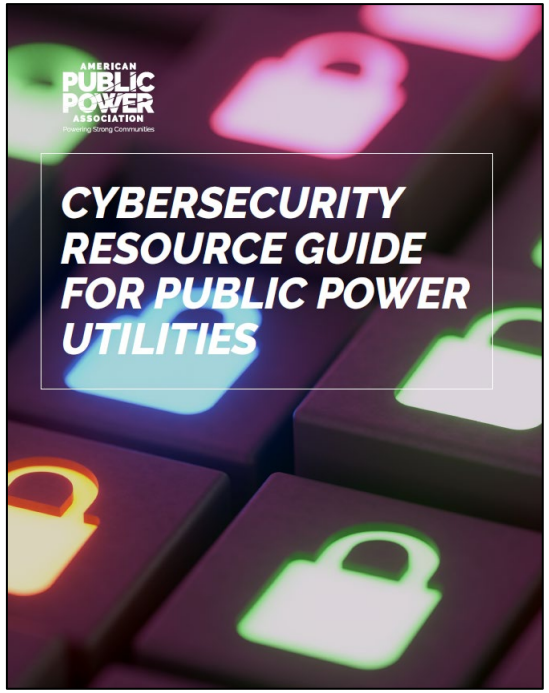
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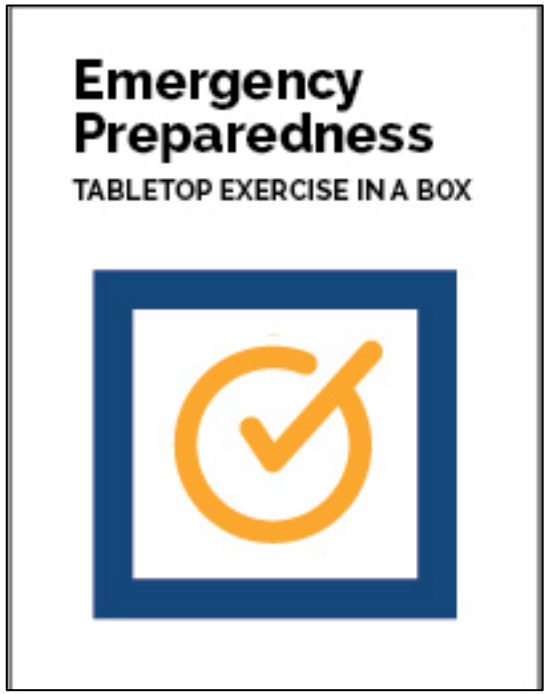


Additional Security Publications









Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA)

- ESCC program that brings together a diverse group of industry cyber experts to share information and offer proactive and reactive support to members
  - Construct for providing assistance during a cyber incident
  - Designed to facilitate support ahead of potential incidents as well
  - The program is completely voluntary; you choose what information or resources you would like to share
  - The program is covered by an NDA (confidential, trusted environment)
  - Also provides opportunities for training, exercises, and relationship-building

How to get in touch:

Website: www.electricitysubsector.org/cma

Email: cma@electricitysubsector.org

Or contact the APPA CMA team at:

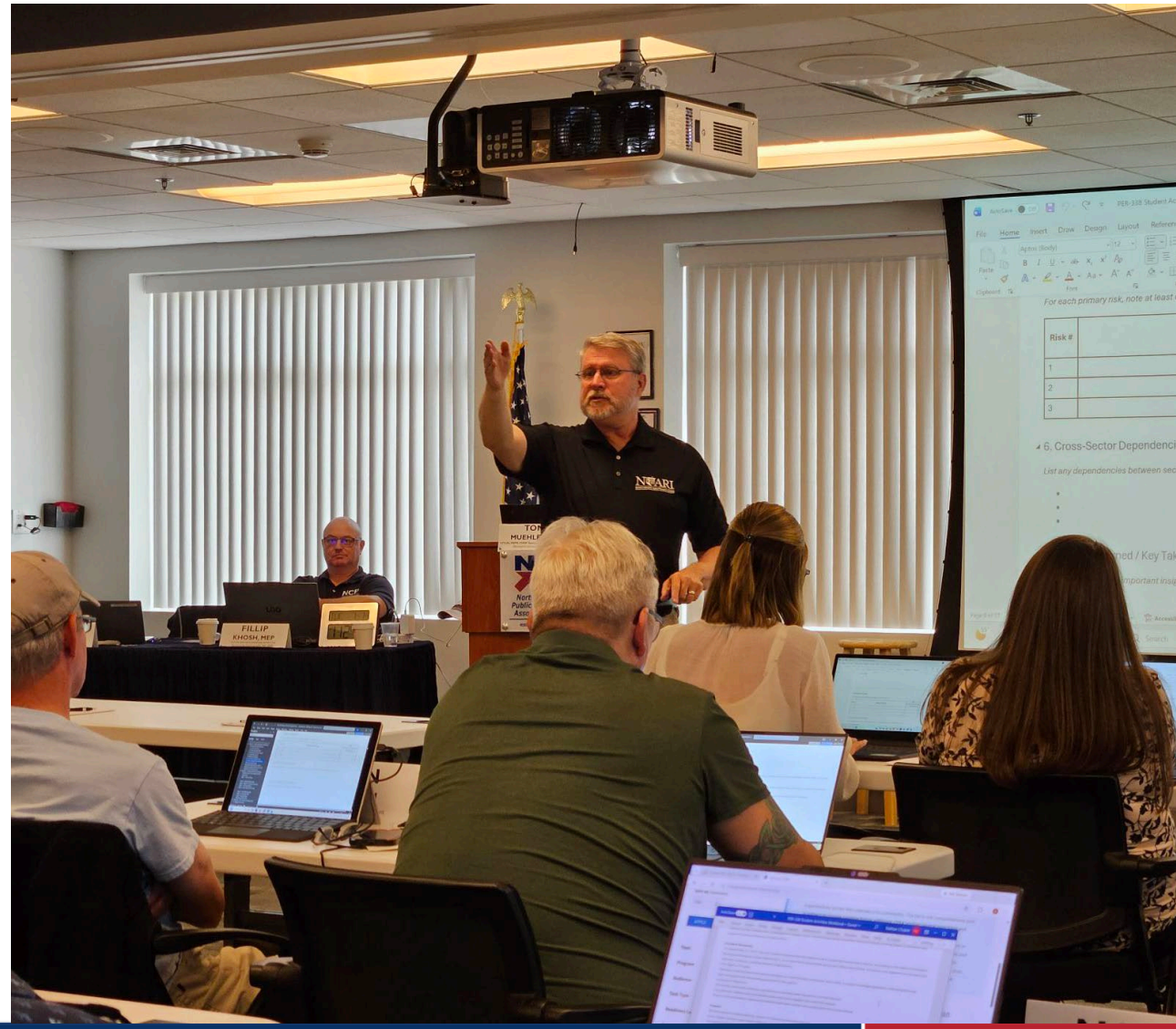
adetloff@publicpower.org

cching@publicpower.org

CMA
Cyber Mutual Assistance

Cybersecurity Training

- Funding available through Cyber Pathways for cybersecurity training for public power utilities
- Training opportunities can be for both IT/OT cybersecurity personnel, as well as for general employees
- In-person or virtual training



Cybersecurity Accelerator Program (CAP)

CAP Background

Learn more!

CAP is an APPA designation program that helps public power utilities benchmark and improve their cybersecurity maturity.

Utilities are assessed across four core practice areas:

- **Internal Controls**
- **Governance and Training**
- **Incident Response**
- **Risk Management**

Results show where you stand today — and which areas to prioritize next.

Context: APPA Designation Programs

Learn more!

APPA has designation programs to help member utilities achieve and demonstrate excellence in different areas

- **Smart Energy Provider (SEP):** a vehicle for public power utilities to benchmark smart energy efforts against their peers, based on industry best practices
  - A peer evaluation of a utility's energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, sustainability, and environmental initiatives

SMART ENERGY PROVIDER
American Public Power Association

- **Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3):** recognizes operational excellence for public power utilities
  - A peer evaluation of a utility's reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement initiatives

RP3 RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER
American Public Power Association

CAP Value Proposition

Learn more!

Why participate?

- Helps participants:
  - Benchmark their cybersecurity program maturity, both internally and against peers
  - Identify priority areas for improvement and support justification for new projects
  - Track and demonstrate progress over time
- Allows cybersecurity personnel to demonstrate alignment with industry best practices to internal – and, as desired, external – stakeholders
- Supports collective efforts to improve the resources, training, and subject matter experts APPA makes available to members

CAP Application Process

Learn more!

Application process is straightforward:



No documentation required

- CAP WG intentionally designed the questionnaire to limit the burden for both applicants and reviewers
- Review Panel may consider changes to requirements in future program years

Program is currently funded by DOE and is **free** to all participants

CAP Results

Learn more!

What happens with my results?

Utilities that score above particular thresholds will receive an APPA designation and *can choose* to be publicly recognized, if desired, at APPA's Cybersecurity & Technology Summit



What are the implications if I don't receive a designation?

None **–** CAP is *only* intended to help utilities get a sense of their cybersecurity program maturity



- APPA is happy to discuss results with participants and help identify priorities, but will otherwise not do anything with individual utility results
- There are no potential repercussions based on your score
- APPA does not identify program applicants



Inaugural CAP Results & Next Cycle

- 60 utilities received designations in the first year of the program
  - 18 small utilities (2 gold, 7 platinum, 9 diamond)
  - 30 medium utilities (12 gold, 13 platinum, 5 diamond)
  - 12 large utilities (5 gold, 6 platinum, 1 diamond)

- 2027 application cycle dates:
  - Application period: **Spring 2027**
  - Grading and review period: **Spring-August 2027**
  - Applicants receive designation results on a rolling basis
  - Designations officially announced: **September 19-22, 2027,** at Cybersecurity & Technology Summit



Questions?



Contacts:

CChing@PublicPower.org

Cybersecurity@PublicPower.org

More information:

https://www.publicpower.org/security