

From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director

Office of Research Security (ORS)

ORS has received notification from Defense Counterintelligence & Security Agency (DCSA) that they will be conducting a security assessment at UAH on September 16-17, 2025.

The security review will include an evaluation of UAH facility's internal security procedures at the working level and interviews with your employees to determine their knowledge of security procedures and responsibilities. As much as possible, I would appreciate you having key staff available for interviews during the review. April may contact you to schedule a time for your interview with the review team.



2025 Annual Security Refresher training:

April is in the process of scheduling another session or two on the UAH campus, so be on the lookout for additional dates. Do not wait on the dates given below, because UAH is not guaranteed those dates even though they are approved and scheduled. The sessions can be cancelled unexpectedly because of the Government's needs.

- **Thursday, October 9, Registration from 11:00am to 11:30 am and speaker presentation from 11:30am- 12:30 pm, Redstone Arsenal Bob Jones Auditorium, speaker: TBD**
- **Thursday, October 16, Registration from 11:00am to 11:30 am and speaker presentation from 11:30am- 12:30 pm, Redstone Arsenal Bob Jones Auditorium, speaker: TBD**

BBB Scam Alert: Beware of sextortion emails

By Better Business Bureau.

At over 48,000 reported cases, the FBI 2023 Internet Crime Report places extortion in the top five most common internet scams. Better Business Bureau (BBB) warns the public about sextortion, in which scammers blackmail victims into giving them money. Sextortion includes threats to expose explicit videos or images of the victim, images or videos of the victim utilizing pornography, copies of their browser history or evidence they downloaded pornographic videos. A BBB investigation revealed sextortion scams follow one of the following scenarios—phishing and romance.

The scammers will contact anyone - whether or not they've visited pornographic sites or sent explicit photos. They'll claim they hacked your computer, activated your webcam, and recorded you while watching pornography. They'll say they gained access to all the pornographic websites you've visited and threaten to send embarrassing images or videos to your contacts, family, friends and co-workers if a payment is not made.

The threat is likely an empty one, evident because the blackmail message usually doesn't have enough personal information to make the scheme plausible. However, victims are sometimes targeted because their data was compromised in a major security breach. In those cases, the scammer may have your email, telephone number and password and will refer to them in the email to sound more threatening and convincing.

One consumer in Memphis, TN, reported receiving five emails in one week demanding \$2,000 in bitcoin. "They used one of my passwords in the subject line and threatened to send videos to all my contacts of me in a compromised activity," she told BBB. Since she'd never used a porn site, she knew the message was a scam. Though this scenario is most common, victims are less likely to lose money because they often know whether a scammer is lying.

Alternatively, the romance scenario involves a scammer who has tricked their victim into developing a relationship. The scammer typically approaches their victim through social media or connects with them on a dating site. Multiple victims told BBB they were coping with breakups or feeling lonely when they first began their relationship with a scammer.

To read the full article: <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/20517-scam-alert-beware-of-sextortion-emails?backurl=/us/al/huntsville/news/scams>



ORS fun photos



Dr. Frederick playing at the Green Street Market in Downtown Huntsville.



Dr. Frederick and Janine serving pizza recently during an ORS Annual Security Refresher training.

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