



Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation

IT Security Unit

Physical Threats to ICT Assets

"Help your organisation in protecting its information assets"

IT Security Awareness

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ICT Assets

Assets (such as electronic documents, emails and USB devices) in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enable information to be stored and processed.

These assets may contain confidential information and are valuable to Government. They must be protected against threats.

Physical Threats to ICT Assets

There are many security risks to ICT Assets, of which a common one pertains to Physical Threats.

Physical Threats mostly relate to physical access and damages that can put an organisation's ICT Asset at risk.

For an IT security awareness session, contact the
IT Security Unit
Tel: 210-2760
Email: itsecurity@govmu.org

Categories of Physical Threats

- × **Intentional acts:** theft, unauthorised access and modifications to information systems
- × **Unintentional destructive acts:** spilled liquids, overloaded electrical outlets, messy cabling
- × **Natural events:** floods, cyclones
- × **Environmental conditions:** extreme temperatures, high humidity

Impacts of Physical Threats to ICT Assets

- ◆ Unauthorised disclosure of information
- ◆ Interruption in business operations
- ◆ Breach of data integrity
- ◆ Loss in organisation's reputation
- ◆ Loss of revenue
- ◆ Legal consequences



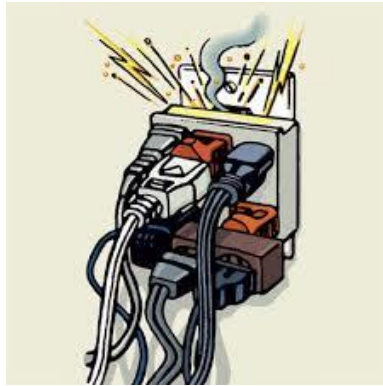
Common Safeguards against Physical Threats

- ✓ Protect entry to secured areas (e.g. offices containing confidential documents, server room) through proper access control
- ✓ Ensure that ICT equipment (PCs, laptops, pen drives, CDs etc.) containing classified Government information, where applicable, are kept under lock and key
- ✓ Ensure that PCs, laptops are protected by the use of strong passwords
- ✓ Adopt a clear desk and clear screen policy
- ✓ Back up your information
- ✓ Always properly dispose of confidential information
- ✓ Ensure your most critical ICT assets are recorded in the inventory list
- ✓ Do not place IT equipment near windows
- ✓ Do not allow eatables and drinks near PCs and laptops

Physical Threats to ICT Assets



Theft



**Overloaded
Electrical Outlets**



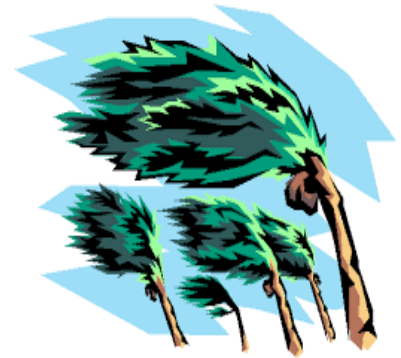
**Unauthorised
Access**



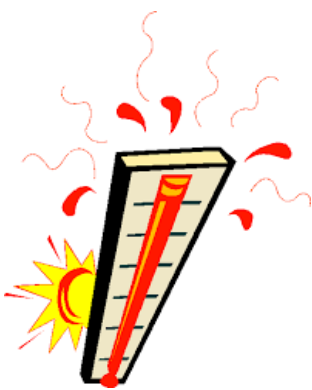
Flood



Fire



Cyclone



**Extreme
Temperature**



High Humidity



Spilled Liquids