



OKLAHOMA  
BANKERS  
ASSOCIATION

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release – October 7, 2014*

Contact: Jeremy Cowen  
405/424-5252 (W)  
jeremy@oba.com

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

# **Protect mobile devices with cyber security tips from Oklahoma banks**

*October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month*

OKLAHOMA CITY — In one year, the number of U.S. adults who have used their mobile phones to perform a banking transaction has risen from 28 percent to 33 percent according to a March 2014 report released by the Federal Reserve. The report also noted 87 percent of the U.S. adult population has a mobile phone, with 61 percent having a smartphone.

“Mobile devices have always been a target for cybercriminals,” said Elaine Dodd, OBA vice president – fraud. “As more banking transactions are conducted on them, the more cybercriminals focus on them. Oklahoma community banks are working hard to protect customer information and customers play a significant role in keeping their information safe. It doesn’t matter what type of device it is, if it is connected to the Internet, it is at risk for an attack.”

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

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

- **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;
- **Avoid storing sensitive information** like passwords or a social security number on your mobile device;
- **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;
- **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.

###