

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Critical Manufacturing

The critical manufacturing sector is an essential component in the U.S. economy and various supply chains as the mechanism responsible for turning raw materials into finished products. The resiliency of this sector can be challenged by actors seeking to disrupt operations or events that cause disruptions in the supply chain.

Criminal Activity

The critical manufacturing sector relies on industrial processes to manufacture products. Many of these processes are operated using interconnected information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) networks. Criminal acts targeting these networks, by both criminal actors and nation-state actors, has the potential to reveal sensitive information and interrupt operations.

- 1. Cyberattacks** – Like most industries, the manufacturing sector is vulnerable to cyber threats. Although rare, cyberattacks that have the potential to disrupt industrial control systems often used in industrial factories are a serious concern. Other cyber threats to the critical manufacturing sector include distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, malware, and ransomware.

[The 5 Most Common Cybersecurity Threats to Manufacturers](#)

[Cyberattack Hits Aircraft Parts Manufacturer](#)
- 2. Intellectual Property Theft** – The critical manufacturing sector may be targeted for intellectual property theft by both competitors and nation state actors seeking proprietary information on trade secrets, product designs, and industrial processes.

[Are manufacturing businesses doing enough to protect intellectual property?](#)

[American Businessman Who Ran Houston-Based Subsidiary of Chinese Company Sentenced to Prison for Theft of Trade Secrets](#)

Other Threats and Hazards

The critical manufacturing sector relies on complex domestic and global supply chains. Events that cause disruptions in these supply networks can bring manufacturing to a halt.



Florida Fusion Center
(800) 342-0820

FLBusinessSafe@FDLE.state.fl.us

Author: FL8507, Approval: FL8600, HSEC-1, HSEC-7, FSIN-1

- 1. Supply Chain Disruption** – Industrial manufacturers' supply chains are usually comprised of a variety of suppliers, transportation vendors, and a number of contractors. Events that cause disruption to this supply chain could impact production. Due to the global spread of the COVID-19 virus, some manufacturers are currently facing challenges receiving necessary parts from international supply chain partners.
[Chinese Factories Recovering but Global Supply Chains Still in Shock](#)
[COVID-19 shut down 93% of all US auto production](#)
- 2. Transportation Disruptions** – The critical manufacturing sector is dependent on the transportation sector, especially the maritime, freight rail, and highway components, for transport of materials. Changes in shipping operations due to the COVID-19 virus may impact manufacturing operations.
[How has COVID-19 impacted supply chains around the world?](#)
[The impact of Covid-19 on global shipping: part 1, system shock](#)

Resources

The Department of Homeland Security provides guidance for improving cybersecurity within the critical manufacturing sector.

[DHS: Critical Manufacturing Sector Cybersecurity Framework Implementation Guidance](#)

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides guidance for small businesses in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

[SBA: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention provides guidance for employers and businesses to respond to COVID-19.

[CDC: Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

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