



Building a Human Firewall: Our Strongest Defense Against Cyber Threats



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In today's digital landscape, cybersecurity is no longer just a technical challenge—it's a human one. At Clarios, we recognize that our people are the first and most powerful line of defense against cyber threats. This concept is known as the **human firewall**: employees who actively protect our organization by recognizing suspicious activity, reporting phishing attempts, safeguarding credentials, and following security protocols with vigilance and integrity.

You Too Can Be a Human Firewall

A human firewall is not a piece of software—it's you. It's every employee who chooses to pause before clicking a suspicious link, who reports an unusual email, who questions an unfamiliar device, and who understands that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. These actions, though small in the moment, have a massive impact on our ability to prevent breaches and protect sensitive information.

Celebrating Vigilance: Caleb and Liz

Recently, we recognized two outstanding examples of human firewalls in action at our Glendale headquarters: **Caleb Abegglen**, Vehicle Application Engineer, and **Liz Norris**, Coordinator, Battery Technology Center.

While working near an access-controlled lab, Caleb discovered a suspicious communication device that did not belong to Clarios. Understanding the potential risk, he handed it off to Liz, who promptly escalated the concern through procurement, contacting Brian Spyhalski, Manager, IT Procurement. Our IT security team responded immediately—speaking with Liz, securing the device, testing it, and ultimately disposing of it safely.

Devices like the one Caleb and Liz found allow malicious actors to set up a name similar to a legitimate network. When an employee unknowingly connects to it, the attacker can intercept sensitive data, passwords, emails, and credentials using techniques like **Man-in-the-Middle** attacks.

Thanks to Caleb and Liz's quick thinking and responsible actions, the potential risk to Clarios has been mitigated—and a powerful reminder of the importance of staying alert.

Security Is a Culture We Build Together

Cybersecurity isn't just about firewalls and encryption—it's about the culture we foster every day, where vigilance is valued, awareness is recognized, and every employee feels empowered to speak up when something doesn't seem right.

"We depend on our employees who exhibit the right judgement when they are faced with a potential cyber threat. It is such actions by these individuals that make our job

easier," said Prasanna Ramakrishnan, VP & Chief Information Security Officer.

Thank you to Caleb and Liz for being proactive, responsible, and resilient! Together, we are building a culture of security—one human firewall at a time.

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER!

To report a security incident, go to **Clarios@yourService** and click on "Cybersecurity Incident".