

## **New Password Requirements Take Effect Jan. 11**

**Tag:** The new requirements will affect new and changed passwords starting Jan. 11.

New password requirements will help strengthen BNSF system security.

Hackers often use tools designed to easily decrypt common passwords which in turn would give them the ability to compromise your identity and impact your work. Requiring passwords to use mixed-case letters and numbers increases the difficulty of cracking the password. The new password requirements will help keep BNSF's systems secure. As a BNSF systems user, it is your responsibility to protect your password and never provide it to anyone.

Beginning Jan. 11, all new or changed passwords must be a minimum of eight characters and must contain:

- at least one lowercase alpha character
- at least one uppercase alpha character
- at least one number

Also new is password change synchronization from the Mainframe to the Windows and UNIX systems. Now the password sync service will automatically match your password for these systems, whenever you change your password on either Windows or the Mainframe.

Other tips for setting a strong password

- Avoid using words found in the dictionary, birth dates, sports teams, family or pet names and other easily identifiable words.
- Never share your password with anyone requesting it, whether it is via phone, email or in person. Hackers often pose as authorized personnel in an attempt to obtain your logon credentials.
- Change your password immediately if you suspect it is compromised.

For a list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding this change, review the FAQ.

Please contact the BNSF Service Desk at 8-593-HELP (817-593-4357) if you require assistance with your password.