

July 12, 2021

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Via Email: consumer@ag.iowa.gov

Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Consumer Protection Division
Security Breach Notifications
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0106

Notice of Data Breach

Re: Reporting Entity : The ESCO Group
Our File Number : 16516.01252

Dear Attorney General Miller:

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker LLP (“Wilson Elser”) represents The ESCO Group (“ESCO”), an electrical installation service located in Marion, Iowa. ESCO takes the security and privacy of the information in its control seriously, and has taken steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.

This letter will serve to inform you of the nature of the security incident, what information has been involved, and the steps that ESCO has taken to secure the integrity of its systems. We have also enclosed hereto a sample of the voluntary notification made to the potentially impacted individuals, which includes an offer of free credit monitoring for 12 months.

1. Nature of the incident

On November 27, 2020, ESCO was the victim of a cybersecurity incident that affected many of its IT systems. ESCO quickly engaged legal counsel and a leading incident response team to assess, contain, and remediate any damage caused by the incident. ESCO also launched a forensic investigation to determine what, if any, information was accessed and/or acquired by those responsible for the incident. This investigation concluded that an unauthorized third party gained access to certain ESCO systems which contained personal information for some of its employees, including their names, social security numbers, and date of birth.

2. Number of Iowa residents affected

One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven (1,857) Iowa residents were affected by the incident.

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An incident notification letter addressed to the Iowa residents was mailed on July 9, 2021. A sample copy of the Incident notification letter being mailed to the affected residents of Iowa is included with this letter as **Exhibit “A”**.

3. Steps Taken In Response to the Incident

ESCO takes the privacy and security of its information very seriously, and has taken steps to protect the privacy and security of potentially impacted individuals' information. Upon detecting this security incident, ESCO moved quickly to initiate a response, which included conducting an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists and confirming the security of its IT environment. After securing the IT environment, ESCO ensured that no further unauthorized activity has continued. ESCO has also reviewed and enhanced its data security policies and procedures in order to reduce the likelihood of a similar event in the future, including: conducted global password resets, updated password and domain admin policies, updated firewall firmware, added multi-factor authentication to VPN, deployed Carbon Black endpoint detection, added new server equipment and software, and enabled additional firewall security features.

Because ESCO values the safety of its current and former employees' personal information, it is also offering credit monitoring and identity theft protection services through IDX. IDX' services include: 12 months of credit monitoring and fully managed id theft recovery services.

4. Contact Information

ESCO remains dedicated to protecting the sensitive information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Robert.Walker@WilsonElser.com or 601.499.8083.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP



Robert Walker, Esq.

cc: Wilson Elser LLP

Attn: Michael R. Jones, Esq.

Enclosure: – Sample Notification Letter

To Enroll, Please Call:
1-833-909-3944
Or Visit:
<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>
Enrollment Code: <<Enrollment>>

Via First-Class Mail

<<FirstName <<LastName>>
<<Address1>>
<<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

July 8, 2021

Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<FirstName <<LastName>>>,

We are writing in order to inform you of an incident that may have exposed your personal information. We take the security of your personal information seriously and want to provide you with information and resources you can use to protect your information.

What Happened and What Information was Involved:

On November 27, 2020, The ESCO Group (“ESCO”) was the victim of a cybersecurity incident that impacted many of its IT systems. ESCO quickly engaged cyber security experts and a leading incident response team to assess, contain, and remediate any damage caused by the incident. ESCO also launched a forensic investigation by a third party to determine what, if any, information was accessed and acquired by those responsible for this incident. This investigation concluded that an unauthorized third party gained access to certain ESCO systems which contained personal information for some of its employees, including their names, social security numbers, and date of birth.

What We Are Doing:

Data privacy and security is among ESCO’s top priorities. Upon detecting this suspicious activity, we moved quickly to investigate and respond. The investigation and response included confirming the security of our systems, reviewing the contents of relevant files for sensitive information, and notifying impacted ESCO employees of this incident. As part of ESCO’s ongoing commitment to the security of information, we have reviewed and enhanced our data security policies and procedures in order to reduce the likelihood of a similar event in the future.

Because we value the safety of your personal information, we are offering credit monitoring and identity theft protection services through IDX. IDX’ services include: 12 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

HEADQUARTERS: 3450 Third Street | Marion, IA 52302 | (319) 377-6655

4905 Hubbell Avenue, Ste. 2 | Des Moines, IA 50317 | (515) 263-8482
9059 Technology Lane | Fishers, IN 46038 | (317) 279-5412
950 S. 10th Street, Ste. 13 | Omaha, NE 68108 | (402) 807-9444

357 McCaslin Blvd., Ste. 200 | Louisville, CO 80027 | (303) 734-7144
5377 State HWY N, Ste. 206 | Cottleville, MO 63304 | (319) 784-7652

What You Can Do:

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by enrolling in this free identify theft protection and credit monitoring. Contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in these services by calling 1-833-909-3944 or going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX is available Monday through Friday 6am to 6pm Pacific Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is October 8, 2021.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering. IDX representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

Enclosed hereto you will find additional information regarding the resources available to you, and the steps that you can take to further protect your personal information.

For More Information:

We recognize that you may have questions not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call IDX at the number provided above.

ESCO values the security of your personal data, and we apologize for any inconvenience that this incident has caused.

Sincerely,



Ray Brown

Additional Important Information

For residents of Hawaii, Michigan, Missouri, Virginia, Vermont, and North Carolina: It is recommended by state law that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity.

For residents of Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, and West Virginia:

It is required by state laws to inform you that you may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

For residents of Iowa:

State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For residents of Oregon:

State laws advise you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

For residents of Maryland, Rhode Island, Illinois, New York, and North Carolina:

You can obtain information from the Maryland and North Carolina Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft.

Maryland Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division 200, St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 1-888-743-0023 www.oag.state.md.us

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection 150 South Main Street, Providence RI 02903 1-401-274-4400 www.riag.ri.gov

North Carolina Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001 1-877-566-7226 www.ncdoj.com

Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20580 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) www.ftc.gov/idtheft

New York Office of Attorney General Consumer Frauds & Protection, The Capitol Albany, NY 12224 1-800-771-7755 <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft>

For residents of Massachusetts: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft

For residents of all states:

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with Equifax (https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud_Alert_Request_Form.pdf); TransUnion (<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>); or Experian (<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>). A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or

change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

<p>Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-349-9960 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/</p>	<p>Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html</p>	<p>TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-800-909-8872 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze</p>
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More information can also be obtained by contacting the Federal Trade Commission listed above.