Levels of Impact

Three levels of impact can be defined on organizations or individuals should there be a breach of security (i.e., a loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability).

- ✓ **Low:** The loss could be expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals. A limited adverse effect means that, for example, the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability might
  - o cause a degradation in mission capability to an extent and duration that the organization is able to perform its primary functions, but the effectiveness of the functions is noticeably reduced;
  - o result in minor damage to organizational assets;
  - o result in minor financial loss; or
  - o result in minor harm to individuals.
- ✓ **Moderate:** The loss could be expected to have a serious adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals. A serious adverse effect means that, for example, the loss might
  - o cause a significant degradation in mission capability to an extent and duration that the organization is able to perform its primary functions, but the effectiveness of the functions is significantly reduced;
  - o result in significant damage to organizational assets;
  - o result in significant financial loss; or
  - o result in significant harm to individuals that does not involve loss of life or serious, life-threatening injuries.
- ✓ **High:** The loss could be expected to have a severe or catastrophic adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals. A severe or catastrophic adverse effect means that, for example, the loss might
  - o cause a severe degradation in or loss of mission capability to an extent and duration that the organization is not able to perform one or more of its primary functions;
  - o result in major damage to organizational assets;
  - o result in major financial loss; or
  - o result in severe or catastrophic harm to individuals involving loss of life or serious life-threatening injuries.