**Firewalls:** Firewall is a hardware or software system that works very synonymous to its name. Yes, it is a hardware or software wall of fire that protects our computer or network.
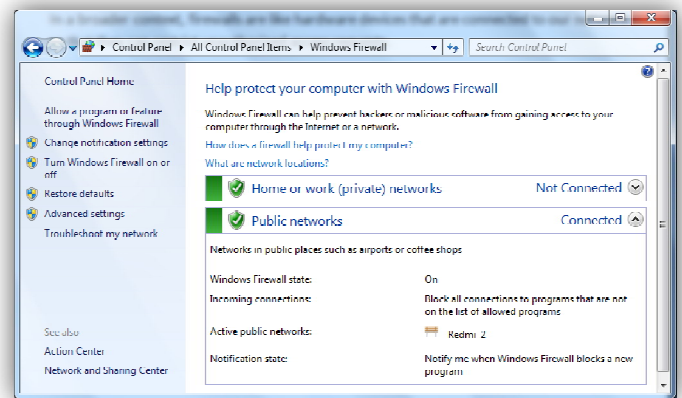
In a broader context, firewalls are like hardware devices that are connected to our network so that they can restrict unauthorized access requests.

In general, we find a firewall software program embedded in our OS that provides somewhat the same type of security to our PC.

In our PC, we find the firewall program in Control Panel. We can turn it ON or OFF. Turning it ON makes our PC secure of possible network attacks like hacking etc. An OFF firewall is simply of no use.
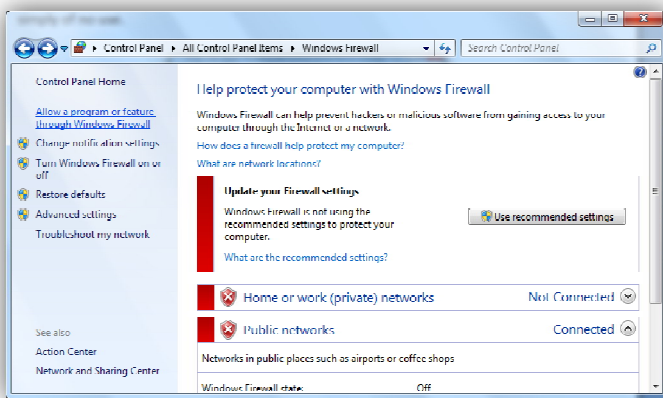
A PC with OFF firewall   **A PC with ON firewall**

Don't draw this diagram. This is just for your reference.

Always keep in mind that Firewall does not provide Virus Protection. It just secures us from unauthorized access. Virus Protection is provided only by Antivirus Programs.

Hardware Firewall: A Hardware Firewall is like a device that is connected to our network. As a device, it inspects all the incoming packets and allows only those packets to enter in our network who are sent from some trusted sources. In some cases, Hardware Firewalls are embedded inside of a Router or Switch like device as well.

<u>Software Firewall:</u> A Software Firewall is a software program that works as installed software on a PC. As a program running on a PC, it protects any unauthorized access attempt made to steal data or services.

<u>Assignments:</u>

1. What is a Firewall? Does it provide virus protection?
2. Differentiate between Hardware Firewall and Software Firewall.