

Below is a sample newsletter article about common scams and fraud which organizations are welcome to use, adapt, and include in their own newsletters or other communications.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States, affecting millions of people each year. Criminals use stolen personal information like Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or bank account details to commit fraud in someone else's name. Identity theft is a serious offense with real consequences, and it can take a lot of time and resources to fully recover. The best way to handle it is to prevent it – and prevention starts with awareness.

Identity thieves use a variety of tactics to steal your information, like phishing scams that trick you into sharing personal details; data breaches to steal your information from retailers, employers, or service providers; skimming devices; and social engineering, where scammers pretend to be someone you trust (like your bank or a government agency) to gain access to your data.

Minimizing your risk of identity theft can be achieved with some simple, but effective, steps:

Protect Your Personal Information

- Never share your Social Security number unless absolutely necessary.
- Don't carry unnecessary personal documents (for example, your Social Security card).
- Shred financial documents before discarding them.

Secure Your Devices

- Use strong, unique passwords and enable multi-factor authentication.
- Keep your computer and phone updated with the latest security patches.
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks for transactions.

Monitor Your Accounts

- Check your bank and credit card statements regularly.
- Set up alerts for unusual activity.
- Review your credit report regularly at AnnualCreditReport.com.

Closing Option 1

Identity theft can be devastating, but it is preventable. By being cautious and acting quickly, you can protect your identity and minimize damage if fraud occurs. Learn more about how to stay protected at an upcoming presentation *[insert presentation details]*.

Closing Option 2

Identity theft can be devastating, but it is preventable. By being cautious and acting quickly, you can protect your identity and minimize damage if fraud occurs. Learn more about how to stay protected by visiting the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's website at DATCP.wi.gov.



QR Code for DATCP's Bureau of Consumer Protection Website
ConsumerProtection.wi.gov