

## CREDIT CARD FRAUD

- ◆ Sign your cards as soon as they arrive.
- ◆ Carry your cards separately from your wallet, in a zippered compartment or small pouch.
- ◆ Keep a record of account numbers and expiration dates and the reporting number for your cards.
- ◆ Keep an eye on your card during the transaction and get it back as quickly as possible.
- ◆ Void incorrect receipts.
- ◆ Destroy carbons. Scratch out your account number on the business copy after credit has been approved.
- ◆ Save receipts to compare with statement.
- ◆ Open bills promptly and reconcile accounts monthly.
- ◆ Report any questionable charges promptly and in writing to the issuer.
- ◆ DO NOT lend your card(s) to anyone.
- ◆ DO NOT leave cards or receipts lying around.
- ◆ DO NOT sign a blank receipt. When you sign a receipt, draw a line through any blank spaces above the total.

## CRIME PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ON:

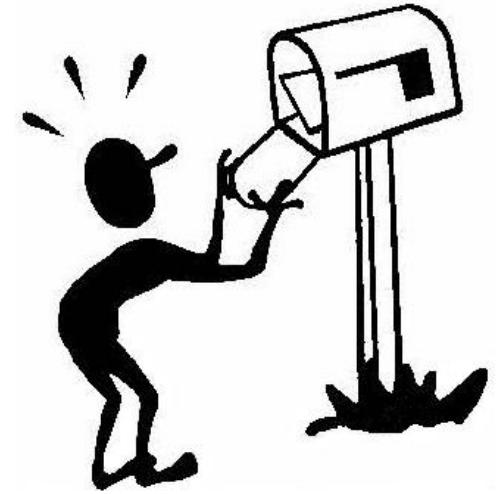
- ◆ PERSONAL SAFETY
- ◆ HOMELAND SECURITY
- ◆ HOME AND PROPERTY SECURITY
- ◆ INTERNET SECURITY
- ◆ IDENTITY THEFT
- ◆ COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION
- ◆ AUTOMOBILE SAFETY
- ◆ TRAVEL SAFETY
- ◆ INTERNET SECURITY / TELEPHONE / CELL PHONE SECURITY
- ◆ CHILD SAFETY
- ◆ DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

To schedule presentations contact:

Judi Holley

Pierce County Sheriff's Department

253-798-3624



PIERCE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT  
CRIME  
PREVENTION  
253-798-3624

# BE AWARE

## IDENTITY THEFT

- ◆ **Do not give your Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, mother's maiden name, bank account or credit card numbers to strangers!**
- ◆ Pay attention to what time of month your bills arrive. If they don't arrive, call the creditor!
- ◆ Guard your mail from theft.
- ◆ Don't carry your Social Security card.
- ◆ Don't carry credit cards or ID cards you don't need.
- ◆ Tear, burn, or shred charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, bank checks or credit offers you get in the mail.
- ◆ Order credit reports from one of the three major agencies, EQUIFAX, EXPERIAN, or TRANS UNION , or another reputable agency!

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

### IMMEDIATELY

- ◆ Report the identity theft to the police or Sheriff in the area where you live.

ID theft is a felony and charges may be filed. Ask the police to give you a copy of the report for your files. You will need this to correct your credit rating
- ◆ Report the identity theft to your financial institution and other creditors.

They may advise you to close your accounts and start new ones.

Ask your financial institution what procedures they require of victims whose credit cards or checks have been stolen or forged.
- ◆ Tell the Prosecuting Attorney that if the person who stole your identity is found guilty, you'd like the court to issue you an "Order Correcting Public Records."

This is a court order you can use to correct public records damaged by identity theft.
- ◆ Send a copy of the police report to the three credit-reporting agencies listed.
- ◆ CALL 1-877-IDTHEFT

## CREDIT CARD FRAUD

- ◆ Never send cash or coins in the mail.
- ◆ Promptly remove mail from you mailbox after delivery, or ask a neighbor/friend to do this for you.
- ◆ Have the post office hold your mail if you are out of town.
- ◆ If you don't receive a check, food coupon, or billing statement you are expecting contact the issuing party immediately!
- ◆ If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via mail.
- ◆ Always put out-going mail in a blue Postal Service mail collection box, or a mail slot at the post office.
- ◆ Use direct deposit whenever possible for checks.
- ◆ Consider starting a Neighborhood Action Team in your community to keep an eye on mail boxes.
- ◆ Obtain a LOCKING mail box. You may do this alone or with your neighbors.
- ◆ If your mail is stolen, report it to the local police or Sheriff AND to the local Post Office.