



Oro Valley Police Department Presents



Identity Theft



Is your identification safe?

Did you buy an RV, but didn't know you owned it?

Do you know where your Social Security number is?

To help prevent identity theft:

- Shred all documents with any personal information: name, address, phone number, social security number, credit card numbers
- Lock your file cabinets
- Password protect your computer
- Do not give anyone else your credit or debit cards or PIN
- If your debit card can also be used as a credit card, use it as a credit card rather than using your PIN
- When you have a house sitter, have the post office hold your mail
- Monitor your accounts online
- Pull your credit reports at least twice a year
- Never respond to emails with personal information these are "Phishing" scams
- Use gel pens to write checks - these inks can not be easily dissolved
- Get a locking mailbox
- Monitor your bank accounts regularly
- Do not write down your password or PIN
- Use a credit card (not a debit card) for out of sight transactions (i.e. for waiters who disappear with your card)
- Make sure no one is "shoulder surfing" by watching from a nearby location as you punch in a telephone calling card number or listens in on a conversation in which you are providing debit or credit cards over the phone in a public place

- If you receive a telephone call that indicates it is your credit card company checking on a purchase, do not provide any information to them. Hang up and call the credit card service number on the back of your card and let them know what has happened. If there is a question with your account, you can address it with them

What to do if you are a victim of identity theft:

- Contact your police department immediately to file a report
- Contact one of the three credit reporting agencies or a local credit reporting agency who can pull from the top three credit reporting agencies
- Contact the creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Speak with someone in the security or fraud department and follow up with a letter
- Keep accurate records of everything involved in your efforts to clear up fraud... records of all telephone calls and correspondence
- Notify the Office of Inspector General if your Social Security number has been fraudulently used
- Change all your account passwords
- Change your driver's license number
- Contact your telephone and utility companies to prevent a con artist from using a utility bill as proof of residence when applying for new cards

For more information call (520) 229-5085 or (520) 229-5084