

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station

LEROY D. BACA, Sheriff

Community Crime Prevention Tips

FRAUD PREVENTION TIPS

Place the contents of your WALLET on a photocopy machine, copy both sides of each I.D. card/license, credit card, etc. Therefore if there is a theft or loss, you will have the account numbers and phone numbers handy to call and report them stolen or lost. Keep the photocopies in a safe, secure place where they are accessible to you only. Make sure the copies do not get into the wrong hands.

We have all heard horror stories about frauds committed on victims using their names, addresses, **social security numbers**, credit cards, etc. Imagine having your wallet stolen and within a week the bandit(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a computer, received a PIN number from the Department of Motor Vehicles to change your license information online, and more.

Here is some strategic information to limit the damage caused in case this happens to you or someone you know.

1. Pull out those handy copies you made.
2. Report your credit cards stolen immediately.
3. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and is a first step toward an investigation, if one is needed.
4. This next one is perhaps most important: Call the three **NATIONAL CREDIT REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS** immediately to place a fraud alert on your Name and Social Security number. This will alert companies that are checking your credit that your information was stolen and it flags those companies to contact you by phone to authorize any new credit. If you do not do this as soon as possible after the theft you allow the thieves time to cause the most damage.

The three **NATIONAL CREDIT REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS** numbers are Equifax: 1-800-525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742, Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289, Social Security Administration (fraud line) 1-800-269-0271.

Additional Tip: **Do not leave anything of value in plan view inside your vehicle.**

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Shawn Brownell at (818) 878-5506.

A Tradition of Service