

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Did you know the average victim of identity theft spends more than 40 hours and \$500 rectifying his or her personal and financial affairs?

- Do not list your Social Security number on checks, driver's license, etc. Never give out your SSN.
- Use different passwords for each account. Do not use '123456', which is the most commonly used password. Don't use family birthdays or pet names, either.
- Shred bills and other important papers. Never throw them away.
- Keep a list of all your accounts in a secure place.
- Carry only the credit card(s) and cash you will need for the day.
- Retrieve mail from your mailbox promptly, and never leave outgoing mail in your mailbox.
- Do not provide personal information or your whereabouts (e.g., spending a week on vacation) on social media.
- If shopping on-line, only use secure sites (indicated by: *https*).
- Do not download files or open hyperlinks from people you do not know.
- Do not send personal information by fax.
- Update virus protection programs monthly.
- Review your credit report annually (it's free!).
- If you are a victim of identity theft, contact your police, banks, and each of your credit card companies immediately.

If you see something, say something.
NOVA POLICE: 703-764-5000