

wecu VISA news

Tips for shopping,
card safety and
fraud prevention



September 2009

Who is ruining your good credit?

Even as you read these words someone may be masquerading as you and creating debt in your name. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in our country today. Many victims remain unaware they've fallen prey to this new breed of criminal until they attempt to get a loan and find out their credit rating has been damaged by fraudulent unpaid accounts.

Guarding your personal information is the key to prevention. Criminals often call their victims and obtain account information, driver license numbers and Social Security numbers by posing as merchants, financial institutions, or even law enforcement. Another common practice is stealing mail, or sorting through trash for information they can use to access the accounts you already have, and to create new accounts for their use.

Limit your risk of identity theft by taking steps to keep your information secure:

- Don't give personal information to anyone over the phone unless you initiate the contact.
- Shred all of your important or personal documents.
- Be sure any online transactions take place on secure websites.
- Review your credit report regularly to spot suspicious activity.
- If you do find that you have been victimized, take heart. You can recover your good credit with perseverance and knowledge of your rights and responsibilities.



continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Your credit union has partnered with BALANCE, a financial education and counseling service committed to helping people nationwide take control of their finances. BALANCE counselors can review your credit report and provide strategies to limit your risk of identity theft, and steps to recover if you have already been victimized. Call 888-456-2227 to speak with a financial counselor about your credit report, identity theft, or other financial concerns. *Copyright © 2004 BALANCE*

From your Card Services Department

Many of us end up taking care of our elder family members in their later years; please be aware that Power of Attorney (POA) does not cover Visa products. A POA can make payments to a Visa loan and receive information about the loan but cannot sign the application, the card or use the card.



Only a joint signer on both the savings and checking of an account has access to the Visa Debit card. This involves signing a debit card application and a card being issued in the joint signer's name.

To have access to a Visa Credit card on an account the POA needs to either be added to the loan as a co-borrower or as an authorized user and be issued a card in his or her name.



Report lost or stolen cards as soon as you notice they are missing!

Within the USA:

Monday–Friday 7:30am–7:00pm Pacific Time:
Call 360.676.1168 x7360 or 800.525.8703 x7360
TTY 800.833.6388

After hours and weekends: Call 800.682.6075
Outside the USA call collect any time: 206.352.3482