

Identity Theft

Protecting your identity!



What is identity theft?

- the illegal use of another person's means of identification
- the act of impersonating someone by using their:
 - name
 - date of birth
 - Social Security number
 - address
 - bank account information

How can I prevent it?

- report lost or stolen credit cards immediately
- cancel all inactive credit card accounts
- notify your financial institution if you have not received new or replacement credit cards in a timely manner
- closely monitor the expiration dates on your credit cards
- check monthly bills for unauthorized charges

Protecting your personal information

- request electronic versions of bills, statements and checks, and sign-up for direct deposit
- limit the amount of personal information you carry in your wallet or purse
- never disclose your Social Security number, credit card number or any bank account details over the phone
- memorize your passwords and PIN numbers and change them frequently
- do not write PIN numbers or passwords down on paper or store them in your wallet or purse
- delete all personal information from the hard drive of your computer before throwing it out
- take receipts from ATMs, bank counters or unattended gasoline pumps with you
- be aware of your surroundings when entering your PIN at an ATM

Online Resources

UTEP Police Department

www.utep.edu/police

Texas Department of Public Safety

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_controllidtheft/idtheft2.htm

Identity Theft Resources Center

www.idtheftcenter.org

El Paso Police Department

www.eppd.org

Experian

www.experian.com

Equifax

www.equifax.com

Protect Yourself

Risk: your wallet is lost or stolen

Solution: file a police report immediately and call your credit card companies to report the loss

Risk: trash containing personal information is stolen

Solution: shred your documents before throwing them out

Risk: your mail is stolen

Solution: never leave mail that contains your personal information for pickup in a non-secure box and always collect new mail promptly

Risk: friends, family, relatives or employees with access to privileged information commit identity fraud

Solution: carefully select with whom you share personal information

Risk: your personal data is stolen online

Solution: only share personal information over the Internet through secure channels

Risk: documents in your home or workplace are stolen

Solution: always store personal documents in a safe and secure area

Risk: imposters pretend to have a valid reason to request your information

Solution: always verify the identity of anyone who requests your personal information

Who to Call for Help

UTEP Police Department

747-5611

UTEP Office of Student Life

747- 5648

UTEP Women's Resource Center

747-5291

University Counseling Center

747-5302

El Paso Police Department

911 (for emergencies)

832-4400 (for non-emergency assistance)

El Paso County Sheriff's Department

546-2280

The University of Texas at El Paso

University Police Department • 3118 Sun Bowl Drive, El Paso, Texas 79968

Phone: 915-747-5611 • Fax: 915-747-5636 • www.utep.edu/police

