



## Protect Yourself!

### *Minimize the damage of theft*

#### Prevention:

- Don't sign the backs of credit cards. Write, "photo ID required."
- Write the last four digits of credit card account numbers on the memo line of your checks, not the entire number.
- List your work phone number on your checks (not your home phone). Use your work address or a PO Box instead of your home address. Do not list your social security number on your checks.
- Photocopy or photograph the contents of your wallet. Keep a copy in a safe place. If your wallet is lost or stolen, you'll know what was in your wallet and have a list of the contact names and numbers. Carry a copy of your passport when traveling.
- Make sure you have a list of toll free numbers and credit card account numbers so you have all the information you need when calling to report cards lost or stolen.

#### Remediation:

- Contact the police to file a report where the items were stolen.
- File a fraud alert on your name immediately by calling the national credit reporting organizations. Also call the social security fraud line. This alert lets companies that check your credit know your information was stolen. They must then contact you by phone to authorize new credit.
  - Equifax: 888-766-0008 or [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
  - Experian: 888-397-3742 or [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
  - Trans Union: 800-680-7289 or [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
  - Social Security Administration (fraud line): 800-269-0271 or [www.ssa.gov/oig/hotline/](http://www.ssa.gov/oig/hotline/)