

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Okaloosa County
Sheriff Ed Spooner

Don't Get Burned on Your Summer Vacation!

Summer time hopefully means vacation time. But don't let your relaxed state of mind make you a perfect target for ID thieves. ID thieves are clever and are masters at getting your personal information. Wallets stolen in tourist spots frequently lead to ID theft. With a few changes in your normal routine and habits, you can make sure that it is the **thief who gets burned – not you.**

- When going to the beach, the mountains, a cruise, or sightseeing, lock up your valuables in the hotel room safe, including laptops, jewelry, passports, receipts, credit cards, checkbooks and other documents that contain your personal information.
- Whenever possible carry your personal information in a close fitting pouch or fanny pack. Take all of your information out of your purse and back pocket.
- Leave as much at home (in a locked area) as possible. Clean out your wallet and purse before going on vacation and leave documents containing your SSN at home. If you need your military ID or Medicare card carry them as you do your other valuables.
- Call the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office at 850-651-7400 to keep an eye on your home while you are gone. Don't forget to give them an emergency contact number, so if something happens while you are away you can be contacted.
- Do not carry a checkbook. Remember, ID thieves only need to have your checking account number. If you must have a check, only take a couple of checks for an emergency with you and guard them as you do your other valuables.
- Be careful using your debit card; remember this card has direct access to your checking account. Use a credit card instead.

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For assistance call the Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office Fraud Hot Line:
850-651-7674