

FRAUD ALERT

Identity Theft



Common Victims: Anyone
Method of Contact: Unsecured Personal Info

Many people lose important papers and documents after a natural disaster. These items, which often contain personal information such as Social Security, credit card, and bank account numbers, can be used by identity thieves to make purchases and open new accounts in your name. [More info on protecting yourself is available here.](#)

- Contact your creditors immediately to report lost credit cards. Contact your bank if you have lost checks or a bank card.
- Use a paper shredder to dispose of any papers or documents with personal information when you are cleaning up after a disaster so identity thieves can't get your personal information.
- Get a copy of your credit report a few weeks after a disaster to be sure no one has illegally used your personal information. You are eligible for a free credit report once a year from www.annualcreditreport.com