



## Identity Theft Awareness Week

January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>

Protect yourself by taking these steps to help prevent identity theft:

- **Shred it!** – If it has any identifying information on it, destroy it! Do not throw it away. Free Shredding Event Information:
  - [Community Shred Events | Washington State](#)
  - [Community Shred Events - LeMay \(lemaymobileshredding.com\)](#)
- **Keep an eye out** – If you receive one of the following notices *IN THE MAIL* you may need to take action:
  - From the IRS stating you may be a victim of ID theft, or...
  - Tax transcript or unemployment related form that you *did not* request.
- **Contact the IRS** if you cannot e-file your tax return.
- **Don't give out account information.** That includes passwords, pin #'s, DOB, Soc. Sec. #, Driver's License #, etc.
  - Did they contact you? If so, hang up or stop the conversation and reconnect with them by contacting on a number you know and trust.
- **Don't make your passwords or PIN #'s easy to guess.**
- **If you can, use [Two-Factor Authentication](#)** when accessing any account.
- **Keep important documents/cards/etc. at home.** Don't carry them with you unless you must use them that day.
- **Use precautions when on a computer:**
  - Make sure the web address you use ends in an "S": <https://www.website.example>. The "s" means "secure".
  - Log out of accounts when done.
  - Close your browser.
- **Watch your accounts for irregularities.**
- **Other helpful websites:**
  - [Identity Theft/Privacy | Washington State Attorney General](#)
  - [Identity Theft: Info & Resources \(WA Dept. of Financial Institutions.\)](#)
  - [Employment-Related Identity Theft | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)
  - [Identity Theft Central | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)
  - [Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)