

## Topics in this edition:

Fall 2017 Newsletter



**Identity Hacking**



**Luggage Theft**



**Trending Scams**



**New Course!**

## Has Your Identity Been Hijacked?



Whether your personal information (along with 143 million other people) was exposed from the recent Equifax breach or your email password was compromised, getting hacked can be very stressful. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing “professions” in the US with thieves stealing \$15 billion last year. While US consumers are among the top victims, Russian hackers are considered to be the main source of this occupation.

Armed with your sensitive identity data, theft transpires through credit fraud, new credit applications, bank withdrawals, email spamming and scams, as well as social media account hijacking just to mention a few.

Here are some first steps to immediately enact since time is usually of the essence:

- Call the fraud department of the companies you know are violated and freeze those accounts.
- Consider placing a fraud alert with the three credit bureaus, request your credit reports, and review for unauthorized actions.
- File an Identity Theft Report with the Federal Trade Commission and your local police department.
- Consider opening new, uncompromised credit and financial accounts.
- Consider signing up for a credit monitoring service.
- Review your preventative measures and ensure they are strong and used consistently. Look at multiple examples in our previous newsletters. Detailed procedures can be found at [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov)

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## Airport Luggage Theft is Taking Off



Reports show that the US has the highest number of air passengers with over a billion travelers; China and the UK follow respectively. With so many travelers come a lot of personal property, and with that comes opportunistic crime (International airports in Johannesburg, Manila, and the US come to mind).

Since 9/11, security presence from local police and TSA has become abundant, screening people and their luggage as they try to board their planes. Unfortunately, that level of oversight decreases rapidly as it nears the arrival side.

Not only do police sting operations discover rampant theft in closed handling zones, but baggage claim areas that are wide open to street walk-ins.

Here are some reminders and precautions:

- Beware of various distraction techniques that entice you to turn away from your bag or set it down to help somebody. They may come in the form of asking for directions, cleaning a spot off yourself (purposely applied by them), or retrieving a dropped wallet.
- Always remain in physical contact with your bags. If that means resting your legs on them while resting, then do it.
- Put an ID tag on the inside of your bag as well as the outside. This helps in its recovery after the outside tag gets ripped off.
- Ensure your luggage is locked and visually identifiable without being gaudy.

## Trending Scams



~ Due to the recent data breach of the credit-reporting agency Equifax, consumers are receiving phone calls from scammers posing as Equifax employees requesting to confirm personal account information. Even when the caller ID says Equifax, don't believe it because it can be manipulated.

*Advice: Don't provide any personal information over the phone unless you have initiated the call and it's to a number you trust. For more questions, contact Equifax directly or online.*

~ After the number of recent natural disasters, there are an abundance of scammers posing as contractors, insurance agents, aid workers, and clean-up crews. Many of which are unlicensed and illegal, demanding money before they provide services (which does not begin).

*Advice: Ask the contractor for his license, insurance, and references so that you can verify his authenticity. Get a written estimate and sign a written contract that describes the work in detail, then pay with a credit card if able so that you can dispute charges if necessary. Contact your insurance company or local aid organizations to validate representatives at your door.*

## New Course for Travelers to Lower Risk Countries



Fort Sherman Academy's new course, **TRAVELING SAINT**, is now available to meet the needs of travelers going to lower risk countries. This ½ day course can be completed online or in a live interactive venue. This basic course is specifically focused on helping short-term volunteers maintain the safety of their own group, while protecting the security of those they are helping. Instruction is given on multiple safety and security challenges, as well as providing foundational practices for faith-based travelers.

Subjects include: ~ Keeping information private in an exploitative environment ~ Basic border crossing and security checkpoints ~ In-transit preparations and safety procedures ~ Lodging and vehicle security ~ Basic guidance for detentions, arrests, and captures ~ and more!

## Register now for these CAPTIVE SAINT classes:

**B+ November 1-2 (ID)**



**July 10-19 Rural (ID)**

**C+ June 12-21 Urban (ID)**

**July 31-Aug. 9 Rural (ID)**

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Fort Sherman Academy trains and supports organizations in faith-based security and risk management. We assist in the furtherance of their mission by training them to better avoid, protect and survive potential or actual adverse events thus allowing them to reach every corner of the globe.