

Learn to Protect Yourself; Personal Finances
Texas Society of CPAs Offer Tips to Avoid Identity Theft

The holiday season is the busiest time of year for the 11 pipers piping. With parties and parades to perform in, it's no wonder it took one of them days to realize he'd fallen prey to thieves and con artists.

Texas Society of CPAs says identity theft can happen to anyone and it's important to take steps to protect your personal information during this hectic time of year.

Limit the amount of personal information you carry with you. Having multiple credit cards, your Social Security card and your checkbook in your wallet, makes the job easy for a potential thief.

In addition, TSCPA says to keep an eye on bank statements and credit card bills. A missing bill or statement can mean a thief has access to your account and has changed your billing address to cover his or her tracks.

TSCPA also recommends installing a firewall on your computer, if you plan to do a lot of online shopping this season.

A firewall may help to prevent hackers from obtaining personal identifying information and financial data from your hard drive. By making just a few adjustments this season, you can turn identity theft into a mere pipe dream.