

Scams Continue to Trip Up Consumers

Scams still are reeling in innocent consumers. Never, ever give your account numbers and other personal information to unsolicited callers, e-mailers, and pop-up ads. Here are several incidents that will show you why, as reported to Credit Union National Association's News Now's Scam Squad.

* Ohio's Division of Unclaimed Funds issued an identity theft alert warning people to be on guard if they get a call or letter from the "Department of Unclaimed Funds" of Columbus. The bogus organization contacts Ohioans, saying they have unclaimed funds waiting to be claimed and asks for a credit card number to charge \$80 to receive a claim form.

* Cornerstone Federal Credit Union, Carlisle, Pa., reported a check fraud in which checks include the correct routing number, but each check shows a different account number.

* Peel, Ontario, police are warning of a new twist in stolen- and altered-check schemes: Offering a job via e-mail as a "financial intermediary." The victim acts as a collections intermediary for an alleged legitimate company by receiving checks and money orders supposedly collected by the company, depositing them into his own account, keeping a percentage as a fee, then forwarding the remainder to an address in another country.

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