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According to identity theft information source, www.IdentityTheft.info, based on a range of information gathered by public and private resources, approximately 15 million United States residents have their identities fraudulently stolen each year. These losses have totaled over \$50 billion.

There are ways to be one less victim. As reported by www.mycreditunion.gov, the areas below highlight how to protect yourself, your business, and your employees this year and every year.

Have a clear security policy and strategy. Create a company wide security policy that states what your company's security rules are and consequences for not following them. Be sure to have a company policy for securing and protecting information that identity thieves are after. Also create an incident response plan.

Use available protective technology. Install firewalls, anti-virus software, and spyware protection on all company computers - including laptops in which employees may take home. Encrypt sensitive files that contain credit card information and customers' personal information.

Conduct internal risk assessments. Have a periodic risk assessment in place that highlights what risks are, how they're working, and what needs improvement. It might be a good idea to perform these risk assessments on a quarterly basis.

Control access and keep logs. Restrict access to sensitive files to as few employees as possible. Keep a log of who has access to what, and make sure the files are in a safe place

and locked so they are not altered or changed without your consent.

Educate employees. Teach your employees about the potential risks of identity theft. Be sure they are aware of what to look out for and how to respond to signs of crime.

Click [here](#) for more on these and to view other tips.

If you believe you or your company has been a victim of identity theft, contact the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

Here at First Financial Federal Credit Union, our job is to educate you on how to better protect yourself and your business from identity theft - and you can rest assured that we have strong security measures in place designed to identify and prevent fraudulent transactions from occurring, including within Online Banking, Bill Pay, and Mobile Banking. Throughout 2018 we will be bringing you a multitude of resources you can use to help protect yourself from fraud. You can view the information, and return as often as you'd like, on the [Tips for Preventing Online & Mobile Fraud](#) section of our website.

We urge you to constantly be on the lookout for identity thieves and to always protect your account information. Do not hesitate to call our Member Service Center at 866.750.0100, contact Business Development at business@firstffcu.com, or stop into one of our [branches](#) if you notice something out of the ordinary on any of your First Financial business accounts.

Thank you,

-First Financial