



Social Security Phishing Scam

November 30, 2006

Dakotaland Federal Credit Union alerts credit union members of the following risk. If you have experienced a loss, please refer to our website page, Preventing ID Theft/Scams for an Identity Theft Checklist.

Scenario/Method: Social Security Phishing Scam

The Social Security Administration issued a warning about a new e-mail scam being circulated with the subject, "*Cost-of-Living for 2007 Update.*" The message appears to be from the Social Security Administration and provides information about the benefit increase for 2007. It contains the following, "*NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely.*" The reader is then directed to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's Internet Web site. Once directed to the phony Web site, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information, and credit card information.

Dakotaland Federal Credit Union recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information."

Loss Control Recommendations:

- **Do not click on the link in the suspect e-mail.**
- **Do not open an attachment to an unsolicited e-mail unless you have verified the source.**
- **Do not be intimidated by an e-mail or caller who suggest dire consequences if you do not immediately provide or verify information.**
- **If you believe the contact is legitimate, go to the company's web site by typing in the site address directly or using a page you have previously book marked, instead of a link provided in the e-mail.**