



Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Stafford County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit



Non-Emergency Dial (540) 658-4400



12 Days of Holiday Safety

December 11, 2017

Day Three: Fraud and Scam Prevention

- Guard your personal information
 - Use passwords for computers, phones and other personal devices
 - Keep your eye on your wallet and know where your debit and credit cards are at all times
 - Do not share personal information over the phone
 - Check bank and credit card statements regularly
- Be cautious of unsolicited emails, fake advertisements and shipping notifications which could contain malicious links or attachments infected with malware
 - Don't click on links in messages from someone you don't know
- Be on the lookout for deceptive advertising and don't believe promises of easy money—anything “too good to be true” is a red flag
- Fully understand offers and request them in writing
- Research companies through the Better Business Bureau
- Beware of fraudulent charities
 - Do your homework before donating and verify the charity's authenticity using tools like the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance
 - Be cautious of phony, “look alike” websites and check web addresses carefully
 - Never reply to unsolicited emails or texts claiming to be from charities
 - Donate to charities you know and trust
- Sign up on the Do Not Call Registry to avoid unwanted calls

***Happy Holidays from all of us at the Stafford County
Sheriff's Office***