

# Staying Safe at Home, On the Go, and Online

## Practical Safety Tips for City of Milwaukee Retirees

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### Personal Safety

- Stay aware of your surroundings—especially in parking lots, ATMs, and when entering/exiting your home.
  - Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, remove yourself immediately.
  - Keep your phone accessible in case you need to call for help.
  - When walking alone, stay in well-lit areas and avoid distractions such as looking down at your phone.
  - If approached by someone who makes you uncomfortable, create distance and move toward people or lighted areas.
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### Home & Burglary Prevention

- Always lock doors and windows, even when home.
  - Install exterior lighting and use timers when you're away.
  - Don't advertise vacations or travel plans online.
  - Keep valuables stored in non-obvious locations.
  - Report suspicious activity immediately—your eyes in the neighborhood matter.
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### Vehicle Theft Prevention

- Lock your vehicle and close all windows every time.
  - Never leave a running car unattended.
  - Park in well-lit, visible areas.
  - Keep valuables out of sight.
  - Consider using steering wheel locks or other anti-theft devices.
  - If confronted, prioritize your safety—do not resist. Call 911 as soon as it's safe.
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## Identity Theft & Fraud Protection

- Be cautious of unsolicited calls or messages claiming to be from government agencies, banks, or charities.
  - Common scams include:
    - “Grandparent” or emergency scam
    - IRS or Social Security impersonation
    - Prize or sweepstakes scams
    - Fake charity solicitations
  - Never provide personal information unless **you** initiated the call.
  - Use **STRONG** passwords and review your financial statements regularly.
  - Shred documents containing sensitive information.
  - What to do if you’re the victim of identity theft?
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## Online & Technology Safety

- Enable multi-factor authentication on important accounts.
  - Keep your phone, computer, and apps updated.
  - Don’t click on unknown links or attachments.
  - Be careful when buying or selling items online—meet in public locations.
  - Consider doorbell or home security cameras if helpful for peace of mind.
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## When to Contact the Milwaukee Police Department

- Call **911** for emergencies or if you feel unsafe in the moment.
  - Call **414-933-4444** (non-emergency) to report suspicious activity or ask for guidance.
  - Reporting helps prevent crime and supports the safety of your community.
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## We’re Here for You!

Thank you, retirees, for your decades of service to the City of Milwaukee. MPD is committed to ensuring your safety and supporting you with the resources you need.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out.  
Stay safe—and thank you for your continued involvement in our city!

# What to Do If You Become a Victim of Identity Theft

**ACT QUICKLY—TIMING MATTERS!** The sooner you take action, the easier it is to limit the damage.

## **1. Contact your bank and credit card companies immediately.**

- Report any unauthorized charges.
- Request new cards and account numbers.
- Ask them to monitor for unusual activity.

## **2. Place a fraud alert on your credit file.**

- Contact any one of the three major credit bureaus: *Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion.*
- A fraud alert is free and requires lenders to verify your identity before opening new accounts.

## **3. Report the theft at IdentityTheft.gov.**

- This is the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) official recovery site.
- It walks you through each step and creates a personalized recovery plan.

## **4. Review your credit reports.**

- You can access free reports at [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com).
- Look for accounts, loans, or inquiries you don't recognize.

## **5. Change passwords and enable security protections.**

- Update passwords on email, banking, shopping, and social media accounts.
- Turn on multi-factor authentication for added protection.

## **6. File a police report with MPD if needed.**

- Especially if:
  - Your wallet, mail, or personal documents were stolen
  - Your financial institution requests a report
  - MPD can provide documentation for financial institutions or assist with follow-up if additional crimes are connected.

## **7. Keep records of everything.**

- Save copies of statements, letters, emails, police reports, and the FTC recovery plan.
- Document who you spoke with, dates, and times.

