

POWELL POLICE  
Press Release  
March 8, 2010



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This week is National  
13. During this time, take  
vulnerabilities on the crime  
happen to anyone. By  
savvy thieves or things you can do for free, you'll be better protected.

Consumer Protection Week, March 8-  
time to learn about the dangers and  
of identity theft. Identity theft can  
making yourself and others aware of

### **LATEST IDENTITY THEFT SCAM TRENDS:**

**Type:** U.S. Census Scam

**Method of Delivery:** In Person

**Primary Region Effected:** All Regions (National)

**Source:** Better Business Bureau ([www.BBB.org](http://www.BBB.org))

#### **Scam Characteristics:**

Beginning March of this year the U.S. Census Bureau's will send out a short questionnaire to every household in the U.S. and Puerto Rico in an effort to collect important demographic data. As a citizen, you are required by law to respond to the 10 short questions. From April to July, those that haven't completed their census will receive a visit at their home address from a census taker.

Identity criminals are taking advantage of the census law and targeting unsuspecting victims in an attempt to steal sensitive information. The scams perpetrated range from fraudulent emails designed to obtain sensitive information to attempts to impersonate census collectors.

Most Citizens don't think twice about sharing personal information with a census worker, and that's why these scams can be very effective. It's important to remember there are distinct differences between a real census worker and an identity thief posing as a census worker.

**U.S. Census workers will have identification, a handheld device and a confidentiality notice. But these things can be easily fabricated, so it's important to know what census workers will not do:**

- **They will not** ask for your Social Security number or financial information, e.g. bank or credit card accounts.
- **They will not** ask you for money or say that you owe money.
- **They will not** harass or intimidate you.
- **They will not** contact you by email- only by phone, by mail, or in person.

For more information on this scam or variations of it visit the Social Security Administration's website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). Use the search function and enter keywords "email scam".