



CONNECTICUT CONSUMER PROTECTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 1 / AUGUST 2024

SCAM ALERT

What it is: EBT theft

How it works:

Scammers use credit card skimmers to steal information from SNAP benefit cards and make a copy or clone of your card. When benefits reload at the beginning of the month, they use a cloned card to steal your benefits before you have a chance to use them.

How to protect yourself:

Change your pin number before and after every transaction, especially before the first of the month.

Watch out for credit card skimmers at check-out. If you notice a machine seems off, report it to a checker before you scan your card.

WELCOME!

This is the first edition of a new informational newsletter produced by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. We'll cover all kinds of topics related to consumer protection, including programs run by our agency, scam and fraud awareness, and so much more. If you have questions or topics you'd like us to cover, please send an email to DCP.Communications@ct.gov.

SUMMER STORM PREPARATION

The National Weather Service is predicting above-normal hurricane activity this summer. Are you prepared?

Food safety

Your refrigerator will keep foods cool for about four hours without power if it is unopened. To be safe, remember, "When in doubt, throw it out." Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.

Medicine storage

Be sure all medications are properly stored, and, if possible, make sure you have enough supply to last several days.

Carbon monoxide and fire alarms

Change the batteries in your carbon monoxide and fire alarms every year.



SPEAKING REQUESTS

Want DCP to speak to your organization, or table at your event? Contact Catherine Blinder at Catherine.Blinder@ct.gov to submit a request.

Contact Us

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

450 Columbus Boulevard,
Suite 901

Hartford, CT 06103-1840

Main Line: (860) 713-6100
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Consumer Complaint Center

(860) 713-6300

Toll Free: (800) 842-2649

8:30am-4:30pm

Email:

DCP.complaints@ct.gov

VISIT US ONLINE

CT.GOV/DCP

CONSUMER ALERT – ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATORS ARE TARGETING CONSUMERS AHEAD OF SUMMER OLYMPICS

If you choose to gamble, remember, there are only 3 companies licensed to accept bets in Connecticut – DraftKings, FanDuel, and Fanatics. Placing wagers on any other platform could put your personal information and money at risk.

*If you or someone you know has a problem with gambling, call **888-789-7777** or visit ccpg.org for help.*

SUMMER STORM PREPARATION - CONTINUED

Portable generators

Never use a generator inside your home, basement, shed or garage, even if doors and windows are open. Keep generators outside and at least 10 feet away from windows, doors, and vents. Read both the label on your generator and the owner's manual and follow the instructions.

Clean-up and repair scams

Scammers often offer clean-up or repair services at a low price, and without a contract. By law, home improvement projects must have a contract. Be sure to research potential contractors before deciding, and ask for their license or registration information, identification, and proof of insurance. Make sure there is a written signed contract detailing the work that will be done. You can also verify credentials by visiting elicense.ct.gov/.

Electrical and gas safety

Stay away from any downed wires, including cable TV feeds. Avoid standing in water where flooding occurs. Electrical components, including circuit breakers, wiring in the walls and outlets that have been under water should not be turned on.

Have a tip we missed? Send us an email at DCP.Communications@ct.gov.