



TRIAD NEWSLETTER

Safety for Older Adults

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Fraud Bingo By Traci Furman

Being a victim of fraud is not a game and it's not fun. Be aware of the current scams and learn to be more vigilant about protecting your private information. Pay more attention to your behavior on the phone, on the computer, responding to mail, and answering the door at home. Read the *Fraud Bingo* play card and see how much you know about how to protect yourself.

F1 If the sales person who called you can't give you detailed answers on the phone hang up!	F2 Deed Fraud is when a home owners signature is forged on a bank deed to transfer ownership.	F3 If you get a late night call from a distressed family member. Hang up and call them back to make sure it's really them.	F4 It's illegal for telemarketers to misrepresent information or the nature of a prize.	F5 If someone calls you to say you've won a huge sweepstakes you've never entered, it's probably a scam.
R1 One of the reasons why seniors are targeted for fraud is that they are trusting.	R2 Don't give your Social Security number to anyone.	R3 Don't give your bank account numbers to anyone	R4 Shred documents before you throw them out to prevent people from stealing your personal information.	R5 If an unfamiliar person comes to your door you do not have to interact with them.
A1 The term for emails that claim to be your bank, business or government asking for information is called Phishing.	A2 You should never pay a contractor up front before work begins. 3 payments throughout project is best.	A3 Most victims of fraud are smart and well educated.	A4 You should call the police if you become a victim of fraud.	A5 When a trusted person like a family member or friend defrauds you, it is called financial exploitation.
U1 It is good practice to go over your bank statements each month to make sure there are no unusual purchases.	U2 Just say "no thank you" if you suspect telemarketing fraud.	U3 Before you donate to a charity, investigate it's legitimacy and how it spends their funds with <i>Guide Star</i> .	U4 If you have the slightest doubt about any offer, get a phone number, investigate, and call back if you still want it.	U5 Approximately 30% of the senior population become victims of fraud each year.
D1 Identity theft is when a criminal uses your personal information to open credit card accounts.	D2 Many scammers call from outside the USA and can fake a number on your caller ID.	D3 Do not invite a door to door salesperson into your home. They can leave information and make and appointment.	D4 It's safer to not inform strangers that you live alone.	D5 Don't send money to anyone who insists on immediate payment.

WHAT IS TRIAD?
 Law-enforcement seniors, and concerned citizens working together to increase older adult safety and to allay their fears of crime.

You're invited to attend our next Triad council meeting.
Tues. Jan 8
9:30-10:30am
 at
Senior Services in Kalamazoo

TRIAD SPEAKERS BUREAU
 Presenters available to give talks on various senior safety concerns

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Be Smart About Your Safety

By Traci Furman

In the past, Triad has encouraged seniors to clearly post medical information on their refrigerator. The Health Data Card would list your name, date of birth, insurance number, doctor's name and phone number, emergency contact people, allergies, illness, and list of current medications. If police or ambulance came to the home they could use that information to take care of the senior with the information available.



Times have changed and now having such information out in the open presents unexpected consequences that could put the senior at risk of fraud, a scam or medication theft. Technology and our public safety dispatch systems now offer an alternative to the Health Data Card.

All of the jurisdictions in Kalamazoo county, including Kalamazoo Public Safety, the Sheriff's Department, Portage Police, Western Michigan University Police and Calhoun County now have Smart911.

"So if somebody calls 911, they're not able to speak, maybe because of a medical issue or maybe their house is being broken into and they're afraid to talk, Smart911, if you have a Smart911 profile, the profile automatically comes up on our screen and then we're able to see what address you're most likely calling from," said Kalamazoo Dispatch Supervisor, Sarah Clark. "It also indicates how many people live in the house, you can also add information into your profile about pets and medical conditions."

Smart911 is a free service that lets you create a profile linked to your phone number and allows emergency crews to find you faster and gives them access to information that could help save your life. It allows you to put in personal information emergency crews need to know and can be updated at any time. Smart911 is a secure site. The information you provide cannot be accessed by anyone at any time except during a 911 call made from a number on your account.

All information is optional and you have the ability to choose what details they would like to include. You can link home and work addresses as well as home and cell phones and add information about other people living in the home, about pets, vehicle details, medical conditions, allergies, current medications and emergency contacts and more.

To create a Safety Profile any citizen can go to www.smart911.com to enter information they want a response team to have in the event of an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 911 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information. If you do not have a computer to create your Smart911 profile call your non-emergency police phone number.

Smart911 is currently available in 40 states and more than 1,500 municipalities across the country. Once entered, your Smart911 profile travels with you and is available to all jurisdictions utilizing Smart911.

Smart911 has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes, including a missing child where the girl's photo and physical description were immediately available to 911 responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly.

Citizens are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 911 and to receive emergency notifications.

Resources: www.smart911.com, www.kalamazoosafety.org, and Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch, *In an Emergency*, Brochure

