



A Program with the
Colorado Attorney General
and the AARP Foundation



Colorado Attorney General
John W. Suthers



Better Business Bureaus®
Serving Colorado



Internet Safety

AARP ElderWatch wants to help you keep up with technology, but stay safe while doing so. The internet can give online scammers, hackers, and identity thieves access to your computer, personal information, finances, and more, however, with awareness as your safety net, you can minimize the chance of an internet mishap.

- **Protect your personal information. It's valuable.**
How do criminals get your personal information online? One way is by lying about who they are to convince you to share your account numbers, passwords, and other information so they can get your money or buy things in your name. Criminals send email or pop-up messages that appear to come from your bank, a government agency, an online seller or another organization with which you do business.
- **Know who you're dealing with.**
There are dishonest people in the bricks and mortar world as well as the internet. But online, you can't judge an operator's trustworthiness with a gut-affirming look in the eye. It's remarkably simple for online scammers to impersonate a legitimate business, so you need to know who you're dealing with.
- **Use security software that updates automatically.**
Keep your security software active and current. At a minimum your computer should have anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a firewall.
- **Keep your passwords safe, secure, and strong.**
Keep your passwords in a secure place and out of plain sight. Don't share them on the internet, over email, or on the phone.
- **Back up important files.**
If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc or an external hard drive, and store it in a safe place.

Learn what to do in an e-emergency

Inform the FBI of hacking at www.ic3.gov or forward a phishing email to spam@uce.gov.

1-800-222-4444

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www.aarpelderwatch.org