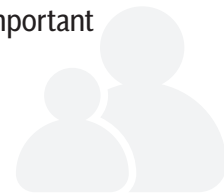# EMAIL IS
NOT SECURE

prevention tips to share with your friends and family

Email is a very common and useful form of communication. People from all walks of life use it as an efficient way to do business and keep in touch with family and friends. From CEOs of large companies to school children, it would be hard to find a person who hasn't heard of email! While it may be convenient, it is important to avoid sending sensitive personal information via email. The following tips can help make your email experience safer and more enjoyable.

BLOCK SPAM

Many email providers already have built-in spam blockers. Make sure the spam blocker is on and working. If a spam message gets through, be sure to either block the sender or mark the message as spam. This will help your email provider stop future messages from getting through.

NEVER REPLY

Replying to spam messages tells the scammer that the email address is real, with a person on the other end. Be sure to block images in your incoming email from being automatically downloaded, as this can also tell scammers they have found an active email address.

AVOID CLICKING ON LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

Be careful when clicking links in emails, even if the message appears to be from a person you know. Look at the email carefully for signs that it could be a scam before clicking on any links, attachments, or pictures. Attachments can contain viruses and spyware. Be sure you trust the source before opening any attachments. Scan attachments for viruses before downloading them.

REPORT

If you receive a scam email, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov. If the scammer is posing as a particular organization, you should report the email to them also.

For more information on protecting yourself from identity theft, visit www.consumer.sc.gov and click Identity Theft Resources.