Fraud Alert

Mid Oregon Credit Union Reports Fraudulent Account Applications

After careful review of suspicious activity on an existing account, Mid Oregon Federal Credit Union staff has uncovered a fraud ring that looks to have become active in the Central Oregon area in June 2019. Four individuals successfully opened accounts between the months of June and September and quickly began overdrawing their accounts via courtesy pay system and deposit of fraudulent checks through the credit union's ATMs. When attempting to collect on these balances, the credit union was unable to make contact.

One of the initial four individuals subsequently submitted four more online applications (three for an account and one for a loan) between the dates of 09/19/2019 and 09/23/2019. Two more account applications were then submitted online (one on 09/24/2019 and another on 09/29/2019) using one fictitious name and two different social security numbers. Three other online applications were submitted between the dates of 09/19/2019 and 09/21/2019, all using fictitious names and SSNs.

Two additional suspects have been seen with these fraudsters and have been identified as known criminals in the area. The credit union has reported all known fraudulent activity to the Deschutes County Sheriff's office and will actively pursue criminal prosecution. Two arrests have been made in connection with this issue.

While the credit union has no knowledge of other institutions in the area being targeted, it is aware that four fraudulent checks were issued on accounts at the Key Bank in the Sweet Home area. They are from a business named "Go-Mama-Hosting.com" and have all been returned with the coding of "Unable to Locate Account".

Also, the credit union believes that the fraudsters are targeting department stores that have a cash refund return policy (like Bi-Mart). They will make several small purchases and later that same day or within a few days return the items for a cash refund. The credit union suggests other

institutions should be on the lookout for an escalating number of transactions within a given day. Institutions should also look for patterns within their geographic locations, such as traveling up and down an interstate freeway or major highway or stopping at motels and fast food chains.

For any active 314(b) participants, the credit union will share names of account holders as well as detailed account information. BSA/Security Officers may contact Dena Timineri directly at (541) 585-1881 for more information.

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If your credit union needs to report fraud, please fill out this form.

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