

EQUIFAX BREACH: Are you at Risk?

Equifax, one of the three major consumer reporting agencies, recently announced a breach impacting an estimated 143 million U.S. consumers which occurred from mid-May through July 2017. The information accessed includes names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some cases, drivers' license numbers. Credit card numbers for approximately 209,000 U.S. consumers were also accessed. Fraudsters could use the stolen data for years to come to open fraudulent accounts and obtain loans.

Equifax established a dedicated website for consumers to determine if their personal information was impacted and to sign up for credit file monitoring and ID theft protection. This site is

<https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/>

Find out if your information was exposed.

Sign up for a year of free credit monitoring and other services.

Check the list of frequently asked questions.

**LANECO members need to do their due diligence on how to respond** since there is some controversy about whether to sign up for their free monitoring as, according to information from Equifax, you apparently forfeit your rights to sue them later or to become part of a class action lawsuit. A reminder to LANECO members who may put a freeze on their credit, there will probably be a fee for this service, and if you are trying to obtain a loan from LANECO or if your LANECO Visa comes up for renewal review, you would need to obtain a release of the freeze so credit may be run, and this again will be at a cost to you.

LANECO does utilize Equifax, but only to retrieve credit files for members applying for loans. We report credit information to all three bureaus on a monthly basis to keep credit reports updated and accurate. No other information is exchanged with Equifax, Experian or Trans Union. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office at 541-683-5665 or 1-800-709-5665

**HELPFUL LINKS:** Equifax Security Breach <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/>

Federal Trade Commission: The Equifax Data Breach: What to Do

[https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/09/equifax-data-breach-what-do?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/09/equifax-data-breach-what-do?utm_source=govdelivery)

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