



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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Media Contact:
David Barr (202) 898-6992

FDIC HELPS LAUNCH SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has joined federal, state and local organizations and national advocacy groups to launch the second annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), to be held from February 14-20.

This year's campaign, "Armchair Armor: Shopping Safely From Home," focuses on how to avoid the risks of fraud or deception while making the most of home-shopping opportunities, through telemarketing, direct mail, the Internet and other avenues.

"The FDIC is proud to be a partner in sharing the message of the second annual National Consumer Protection Week campaign," said Donna Tanoue, Chairman of the FDIC. "Our goal is to help teach consumers how to protect themselves when they take advantage of the ever-expanding number of opportunities to shop from home."

Shopping from home is convenient and offers a wide range of choices. But like traditional shopping, it is not without risk. With the explosion in home-shopping opportunities, increasing numbers of consumers are unknowingly falling victim to con artists.

During National Consumer Protection Week, representatives from federal, state and local organizations and national advocacy groups are joining forces to help give consumers the tools they need to shop safely from home. Among the NCPW organizers are the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Federal Trade Commission, The Consumer Federation of America, AARP, The National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, The National Consumers League, and The National Association of Attorneys General.

This year's campaign addresses some of the most common schemes that con artists use to rip off at-home shoppers, and offers practical plain-English tips that consumers



Congress created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1933 to restore public confidence in the nation's banking system. It promotes the safety and soundness of these institutions by identifying, monitoring and addressing risks to which they are exposed. The FDIC receives no federal tax dollars — insured financial institutions fund its operations.

FDIC press releases and other information are available on the Internet at www.fdic.gov, by subscription electronically (go to www.fdic.gov/about/subscriptions/index.html) and may also be obtained through the FDIC's Public Information Center (877-275-3342 or 703-562-2200). PR-6-2000

can use to avoid being victimized. NCPW partners are helping to get the word out-from announcing law enforcement actions and establishing Web pages and banner ads, to creating and disseminating brochures, quizzes, posters, flyers and press releases about safe shopping from home.

For more information about National Consumer Protection Week, visit the NCPW Web site at www.consumer.gov/ncpw.