



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation • Each Depositor insured to at least \$250,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2005

Media Contact:
David Barr (202) 898-6992

FDIC to Hold Identity Theft Symposium as Part of National Consumer Protection Week Observance

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) will hold a symposium on identity theft on February 11 in Washington, D.C., in observance of National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW).

The symposium, "Fighting Back Against Phishing and Account-Hijacking," follows the FDIC's December 2004 release of its study on the growing and challenging problem of identity theft. Panel presentations by government, banking industry, law enforcement and consumer protection experts will provide information on current efforts designed to combat phishing and account-hijacking scams.

"Financial institutions and consumers can take a number of steps to help prevent identity theft and mitigate the consequences - such as the denial of credit, and the loss of job opportunities - when this crime occurs," said FDIC Chairman Donald Powell. "Consumer education is key."

This year's NCPW theme is "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction." The NCPW message aims to educate consumers about the risks of identity theft, the importance of safeguarding personal information, and other actions that can reduce the risk of phishing, account-hijacking and other forms of identity theft.

The February 6-12, 2005, observance of NCPW will include a number of events sponsored by federal, state and local agencies, as well as national and local consumer organizations. In addition to the identity theft symposium, the FDIC will conduct various outreach efforts through its regional and area offices.

The FDIC is a member of the NCPW steering committee. Other organizers include the Federal Trade Commission, AARP, Better Business Bureau, Consumer Federation of America, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Citizen Information Center, Identity Theft Resource Center, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.



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-6-2005

For more information about the FDIC's symposium on identity theft, which will be held at the AED Conference Center in Washington, D.C., call Maribeth Bluyus at 703-516-1049.

Information to educate consumers on such issues as fraudulent efforts to obtain consumer information can be found on the FDIC's Web site at <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/alerts/index.html>.