

# CONSUMER FRAUD BULLETIN

Brought to you by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers

Fall 2013

## Top Stories in this Bulletin:



[Scams Targeting Military](#)



[Panic Peddlers](#)

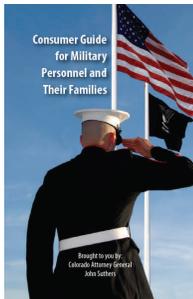


[Safeguard Social Media Accounts](#)



[Shopping Safely](#)

## Scams Target Military Personnel and Their Families



It is an honor to have more than 400,000 veterans living in Colorado and more than 50,000 members of our nation's armed services who are either from Colorado or stationed in our great state. Service members living in Colorado or while stationed across the nation and abroad face a number of demands on their time and resources. Unfortunately, scam artists find service members an attractive target, precisely because they are often busy protecting our country overseas or focused on their duties here at home. In an effort to help military service members and their families avoid being victimized by consumer fraud, our office has prepared a pamphlet: [Consumer Guide for Military Personnel and Their Families](#). To order copies of this brochure please fill out our [publication request form](#).

## Panic Peddlers and Autumn Door-to-Door Scams



While door-to-door scams remain prevalent almost all year round, the types of schemes change with the seasons. As autumn arrives so do home maintenance swindlers promising to help get consumers ready for the cooler weather. There are several types of common fall frauds, the first is the famed 'distraction burglary'. This happens when a self-proclaimed contractor knocks on the door and offers their services to clean gutters, trim trees, or other fall fix ups. When the consumer steps outside to talk about the job, an accomplice enters the unlocked home for a quick burglary. They're usually looking for cash in handbags and jewelry in bedrooms. [Click here for more about fall door-to-door fraud.](#)

## Military Members Should Safeguard Their Social Media Accounts

[Department of Defense](#) urges users to protect their identities by monitoring their social media accounts closely, ensuring posted information is actually coming from the account owner. They're also reminded to be wary of what they post online and to make sure their posts don't compromise any operation security. [Click Here to watch the video from The U.S. Army.](#)



## Shop Safely this Season with Tips from the BBB



Grab your shopping bags and compile your lists, the biggest holiday shopping weekend – Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday – is almost here. Better Business Bureau offers the following tips to help make your shopping adventure go smoothly:

- Create a budget and stick to it
- Don't fall for the too-good-to-be-true deal
- Shop small on Small Business Saturday
- Watch out for scams
- Shop safely online
- Know your rights
- Start with Trust

[Click here to read more about these helpful tips from the BBB.](#)

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