



**McCLAIN**  
INSURANCE SERVICES

AutoHomeBoat.com

# Safety Express

Newsletter for Clients & Friends of McClain Insurance Services

March 2011

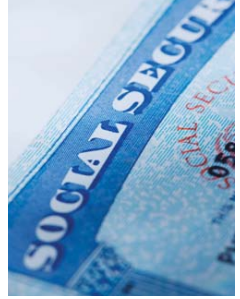
## Tax Season: Prime Time for ID Theft



Claudia McClain

With forms, deadlines and confusing laws on top of your day-to-day responsibilities, ID Theft may be the last thing on your mind. Which might explain why identity thieves have made tax season their 'prime-time'.

There is no other period when sensitive information is being mailed or transmitted more frequently than during the first quarter of each year.



Nick Pembroke

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in Washington state, and identity thieves are constantly inventing new ways to access your information. **As you collect forms and prepare your taxes this year, please keep in mind a few rules:**

**1. Be alert.** Your awareness is your most important weapon in protecting your identity.

**2. Invest in a locking mailbox.** Tax forms contain virtually all of your personal data - a jackpot for identity thieves! Mail documents only from secure mailboxes or from the post office.

**3. File Early.** If a thief gets hold of your W-2 information, they can quite easily e-file for you - and steal your tax refund by having it deposited in their own bank account.



Laura Paradis



**4. Don't Fall for Scams.** Tax preparers telling their clients they needed to "pay back" stimulus payments; crooks calling to collect "fees" from unassuming people who may be behind on their payments; or fraudulent e-mails from the IRS to get taxpayers to click links or release personal information...

These are just a few of the tricks that criminals use to get your information. Keep in mind that the IRS does not send e-mails. Thoroughly research your tax preparer before allowing them access to your personal financial information.



Nathalie Stamey

**5. Bullet-Proof Your PC.** E-filing is a great way to assure a quick and accurate refund. However, it's now more important than ever to protect your PC with up-to-date firewalls and anti-virus software. Select a strong password and be sure to encrypt your wireless internet network connection.



Mary Fisher

Did you know that your homeowner's insurance can provide you with help from expert fraud specialists if you become a victim of identity theft? All our carriers offer this valuable protection. Please give us a call at 425-379-9200 for more information or to add it to your insurance plan.

***Just a little humor at the end...***

**"Have you ever noticed that if you put the words "THE" and "IRS" together, it spells "THEIRS"?"** (Anonymous)

McClain Insurance Services

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# Safety Express

**We're Doubling Up The Specials - Especially for You!**

Win one of two iPod Touch (8GB)



It's so easy:  
Simply "Like" us on  
Facebook by 3/15/11.



[Facebook.com/McClainInsurance](https://www.facebook.com/McClainInsurance)

Already a Fan?

**No problem!** We want to be fair to our faithful followers so far! That's why we're giving away not one but TWO Apple iPod Touch.

We will capture a list of our current friends through 2/25/11 and randomly draw the winner of iPod Number 1.

We will then capture a list of all **new** followers between 2/26 and 3/31/11 and randomly draw the winner of iPod Number 2.

We "like" you! Thanks for insuring with us!

PS: With all these electronics - you may want to consider a home inventory. More about that soon on our Blog: [blog.autohomeboat.com](http://blog.autohomeboat.com). :)

Win an Apple iPad

Anyone who makes a referral between now and 3/31/2011 has the chance to win an Apple iPad.



(In addition to receiving a Pocket First Aid Kit and a \$10 Donation to the School of your Choice.)

## All you need to do:

1. Tell a friend, family member or co-worker about us and ask them to call us for a quote.
- OR: 2. Call us for a quote on a new policy for yourself.

## Many Thanks for your Referrals

*Lori Corwin, Melanie Hanson,  
Dennis & Sue Anderson, Jeff Harrison,  
Margaret Cassidy, Ryan Hydorn,  
Susan Andresen, Tammy Cole, Ann Hopkins  
Christine Penaranda, Ron Wolswijk  
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