



# SCAM ALERT

## **Scam: Free Wi-Fi Target: All Seniors**

Scam Artists are taking advantage of security vulnerabilities in free Wi-Fi (wireless internet connections) offered in hotels, restaurants, airports and stores. In order to protect your personal information, always use an encrypted site (see description below). Encryption scrambles the information you send and receive so that it is not accessible to others. When using a public Wi-Fi, often known as a Hotspot, as opposed to using Wi-Fi in your home, scam artists are able to capture and misuse your passwords, personal information and account information!

**Scam Artists can obtain your personal information from through free Wi-Fi!**

When you use a public Wi-Fi network, always take precautions. Here are some tips to keep your personal information safe:

- 🔒 Log-in and send personal information only to websites that you know are fully encrypted. Look for the “https” in the website address and on EVERY page you visit. The “s” stands for secure.
- 🔒 Do not use the same password on different websites. It could give a scam artist an advantage in accessing all of your accounts.
- 🔒 Consider changing the settings on your cell phone or lap top, so that it does not automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi networks. This will give you more control.
- 🔒 Keep your security software up-to-date. This offers you protection and often provides warnings when you are entering a fraudulent website.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact  
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at  
877-565-2020, or your local police department.**