

American State Bank – Special Notice

Equifax, one of the nation's three largest credit bureaus, disclosed that it was subject to a massive data breach – one of the worst in the nation's history. By the company's own admission, the breach affects as many as 143 million Americans or roughly half of the U.S. population. This constitutes a much larger share of Americans with a credit history.

According to the company's press release, "the information accessed primarily includes names, Social Security numbers, birthdates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers."

Given the risks posed by the data breach, American State Bank wants to inform their customers about the following precautions they can take to minimize potential fraud.

What Should Customers Do?

1. Visit www.equifaxsecurity2017.com, an online service Equifax has set up, to check if personal information has been compromised.
2. A number of experts also advise consumers to place a credit freeze on their credit reports, if they believe they are at risk of identity theft. Based on Equifax's disclosure, it's reasonable to assume that the risk is high. To learn more about the credit freeze process, you can go to the following websites:

Minnesota Office of the Attorney General

www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/publications/identitytheft.asp

Federal Trade Commission

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0497-credit-freeze-faqs>

Minnesota state law requires a \$5 fee for each credit freeze. Consumers may contact the credit reporting agencies as follows:

Experian Security Freeze

(888) 397-3742

<https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>

Equifax Security Freeze

(800) 685-1111

<https://www.freeze.equifax.com/>

TransUnion Security Freeze

(800) 680-7289

<https://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze>

3. Monitor accounts closely and frequently. By Viewing accounts online and checking throughout the month, customers will be able to identify possible problems sooner.

4. Review credit reports every three or four months. Consumers are entitled to one free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus per year. They can request a single report from one of the bureaus every three or four months. By staggering these requests, consumers will be able to monitor credit throughout the year.