



Identity theft is a prevalent problem in the country today. Identity theft occurs when a person's personal information such as name, Social Security number, or credit card number is used without permission to commit fraud or other crimes. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that as many as 9 million Americans are victims of identity theft.

Believe or not people can obtain your personal information through dumpster diving. Dumpster diving is where a person sorts through garbage to obtain documents that contain your

personal information.



Many people have the misconception that their information magically disappears and that no one will see it when they place it out for recycling or disposal. This is not the case, says Laura Weber, SRMT Solid Waste Program Manager. "One to three people will handle your garbage and recyclables before it reaches its final disposal area. I have personally called people in the community to share that we have their bank statements or pay stubs containing all of their personal information and suggest that they

## ***PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY - SHRED YOUR PAPER***

shred this information before disposing of them" says Weber. This information comes through the Tribe's transfer station in the recycled paper. The solid waste staff sorts through the paper prior to shipping it to the recycling market. Weber says "if we come across documents with personal information, we shred it, but we don't capture everyone's documents." Weber encourages people to shred anything that contain your personal information. Visit the following website to learn more about which documents to shred:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/deter.html#Treatyourtrashandmailcarefully>