

Excerpted from November issue of CAROCP Market Watch

(A publication from the California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs)

BEWARE ONLINE JOB HUNTERS *(All Sectors)*

Online job boards have become hot spots for identity thieves. The FBI said in July that it is investigating a variety of cases and scenarios involving online job scams. The FBI cites one scenario where thieves are finding resumés posted online with Social Security numbers and other personal details and using the information to apply for fake credit cards and loans in the job hunters' names. In another, they send a job hunter an e-mail, posing as a recruiter or company official seeking personal details for a pre-employment background check, then use the information for identity theft. Here are some online job hunting tips:

- When you post a resumé, remove personal information, such as your address and phone number. Potential employers can reach you via e-mail.
- Never post your Social Security, driver's license or passport number or any other information that could help a criminal set up a bank account.
- Spot phony job postings by checking for misspellings and grammatical errors.
- Don't agree to a background check until you have had an interview in person, and don't set up direct deposit until you've been hired.
- Do an Internet search of the company to make sure the URL of the official website matches the address the employer refers you to. If there's a mismatch, find the phone number of the company's corporate headquarters on the official website to verify the hiring manager who contacted you is an employee.

The Orange County Register, October 20, 2006