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## **OREGON IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT AFFECTS ALL BUSINESSES**

PORTLAND, Oregon (October 19th, 2007)  
– According to the Federal Trade Commission, Oregon is ranked 13th in the nation for identity theft crime. That's about to change; effective October 1st, 2007, the Oregon Identity Theft Protection Act sent a clear message to all businesses: protect all personally-identifying information collected from customers and employees. If there's a security breach and a chance of harm to consumers, a business must notify these customers as soon as possible. This notification can be extremely costly to a company and its reputation, but the public must be protected from identity theft.



Oregon businesses have until January 1st, 2008 to implement and maintain reasonable safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of information, including proper disposal of sensitive information. Simply recycling records and office paperwork is anything but secure, as these materials are typically bundled and shipped to locations all over the world. And in-house shredding is often done by the very personnel who understand the value of the information they're been asked to destroy - and best know how to profit from its misuse.

Scott Jenkins of document destruction service EFI Secured Shredding and Recycling ([www.envirofiber.com](http://www.envirofiber.com)) offers several tips for Oregon businesses. "First, make sure your business uses a bonded and insured document destruction service, ideally one that's certified by the National Association for Information Destruction. N.A.I.D. certification ensures that the service follows strict security guidelines, has the equipment necessary to thoroughly destroy your sensitive information, and properly screens and drug tests its employees. Second, implement a regular document destruction schedule - don't wait until you're bursting at the seams. Whenever documents are stored your business is vulnerable to a security breach or having the documents used against you in the event of a lawsuit. And routine destruction is often less expensive in the long run. Third, the new Oregon Identity Theft Protection Act makes information security a top priority for all businesses, from sole proprietorships to large corporations. Make sure management and employees handling sensitive information are familiar with the act and fully understand their responsibilities. Have a clear, written information security policy in place and adhere to it. The future of your business depends on it, considering the potential penalties and lawsuits if your business is found negligent."

For more information, visit [envirofiber.com](http://envirofiber.com) or contact: EFI Secured Shredding and Recycling, 4325 N. Commerce Street, Portland, Oregon 97217 (503) 737-2100.