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Protecting Your Number: Cell numbers are the new social security numbers

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By Alicia Summers, Reporter



SAN DIEGO (NEWS 8) – With new technology comes new threats to users' safety and security – take for example cellphones.

Cellphones are the keepers of private information. They are always on the owner and the ten digit number is an entry point

into his or her life.

Many easily turn over their cellphone number to social media, retail and other companies without thinking twice.

Scary?

Yes it is – a person's cellphone number is the new social security, according to Thomas G. Martin, President of Martin Investigative Services and former agent with the Federal Department of Justice.

Just like social security numbers, Martin said cell numbers are unique personal identifiers and in today's world with changing technology, the bad guys would rather steal cellphone numbers rather than social security numbers.

"We can take that number and get all the info we can get with a social, but now we can get stuff like finances, credit card, medical records when you talk to your doctor to set up appointments," he said.

Not only is identity theft a concern, so is blackmail.

According to Martin, one way to protect yourself is to get a second phone. "For an extra \$30 you get a second cell to keep sensitive data."

Martin also warned the public to be careful who they give their cellphone number to.

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Firefighters working to extinguish Rainbow brush fire

Updated: Jul 10, 2017 2:04 PM PST



Firefighters are working to extinguish a roughly one-acre brush fire alongside

Interstate 15, near Rainbow Valley Boulevard in the far northern reaches of San Diego County, according to Cal Fire. There are no reports of structural threats. Two southbound lanes of the freeway are closed in the area due to the blaze, Caltrans reports.

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It's a disease that affects almost everyone in some way or another. Here in San

Diego, researchers continue to make big strides in the fight against cancer.

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Updated: Jul 10, 2017 1:37 PM PST

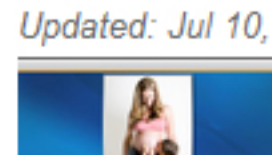


San Diego, which is known for its craft brewing industry, is scheduled Tuesday to

become the first U.S. travel destination with an "official beer."

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Lana Titus is one of Southern California's own and she is hoping to be Women's Health