



Denver Fire Department Federal Credit Union

Serving Professional Firefighters and their families since 1938

April 2008



About DFD FCU

Location

2201 Federal Boulevard
Denver, CO 80211

Phone

(303) 228-5300

E-mail

webmail@dfdfcu.com

Web

www.dfdfcu.com

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Closures

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2008

Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2008

Labor Day

Monday, September 1, 2008

Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

We Do Business in Accordance With the
Federal Fair Housing Law and the
Equal Credit Opportunity Act

Denver Fire Department FCU VISA® Platinum Credit Card Now Available

The Perfect Addition For Your Spring Break Vacation

Denver Fire Department Federal Credit Union would like to express our appreciation to our members for your patience during the Platinum Credit Card conversion. Despite a few minor wrinkles, the process is now moving forward smoothly and all major issues have been addressed. Later this year members will have the ability to view Credit Card transaction history through our virtual branch home banking site, but in the meantime give us a call, or you can access that information through a separate login at our Web site, www.dfdfcu.com.

As Spring Break season kicks off be sure to use your new Denver Fire Department FCU Platinum VISA® Credit Card while you are on vacation. Take advantage of our low rates, a 25-day grace period for purchases, no annual fees and access to cash advances at ATMs and credit unions worldwide. For added convenience, cash advances for all of your Credit Cards are available at our Denver Fire Department FCU branch.

All existing Cardholders have been converted to take advantage of the Plus One Rewards program. Unlike our previous SCORECARD rewards program, members will not see their rewards points listed on their statement. However, the primary card holder can contact Plus One Rewards at 800-381-9040 during normal business hours and an operator will gladly share points accrued. We are also working on a more convenient method to notify you of your rewards balance.

Cardholders participating in the rewards program may also be interested to know that airline tickets start at only 18,000 points, previously they were 25,000 points. So, for every dollar you charge with your Denver Fire Department FCU VISA Platinum credit card you earn 1 point.



For Members who would like an even lower rate, we now offer a non - rewards Platinum Credit Card. With approved credit, rates start as low as 7% APR*.

Also coming soon is the introduction of Denver Fire Department FCU's new Business VISA Credit Card, as well as MasterCard gift and travel cards. The gift and travel cards are the way of the future with traveler's checks slowly becoming obsolete.

In an effort to give back to the community, every time that you use your Denver Fire Department FCU Platinum Credit Card we will donate a portion of the merchants interchange fee to the Colorado Professional Firefighters Foundation which supports fallen firefighters and their families. We encourage you to please use the Credit Card responsibly, and help exceed our expected donation to the foundation of \$40,000 in 2008!

To be eligible to apply for any of these Platinum Credit Cards, you must be a member of Denver Fire Department FCU. Check with a credit union representative for current rates and terms.

**Annual Percentage Rate*

Denver Fire Department FCU Links to TurboTax® for the Web

The April 15 tax deadline will be here soon! To help you prepare your 2007 taxes, Denver Fire Department FCU offers a convenient link to TurboTax on the Web. Just visit www.dfdcu.com and click on the TurboTax logo to get started. Known for providing cutting-edge tax preparation services, Intuit delivers TurboTax OnlineSM products.

By using this online service you can not only prepare your taxes online but will have availability to tax calculators and informative tax articles. Learn about how a new mortgage will impact your taxes, determine the benefits to your return of year-end charitable contributions, check the 2007 Federal tax rate schedules, and consider tax deductions for home owners plus, much more.



Earn Higher Dividends With A Money Market Account

Are you looking to earn higher dividends but want to avoid a long-term commitment? Our money market accounts are easy to set up, easy to use and a great place to keep your short-term savings. Members can open their high yield money market account with a minimum deposit of \$5,000 and have the option of using six transfers at no charge.



The high yield money market account is set up to earn a higher dividend rate than the regular shares accounts for those who want a safe investment. Plus, dividends compound daily and are paid monthly.

Visit www.dfdcu.com to learn more about current rates and terms.

Check Fraud Alert! 10 Steps to Avoid Becoming a Victim

In today's fast-paced and high-tech society, check fraud is becoming a more common occurrence. In fact, the problem costs American businesses an estimated \$50 billion a year. However, the everyday routine of people writing checks for their purchases, despite the popularity of debit cards, still represents the largest amount of transactions, totaling more than \$40 trillion.

Trying to cash in on that money, criminals can reproduce realistic although counterfeit forged checks with just a few simple pieces of account information and some basic off-the-shelf software and equipment to fool even the most suspicious eye. So, credit unions and other financial institutions are taking steps to intercede in this serious problem to not only protect their members/customers but also the company's bottom line which is often impacted by check fraud losses.



Denver Fire Department FCU is on alert for fraudulent checks. In addition, the credit union is watching closely for forgery, counterfeiting, alterations, paperhanging, account takeover and new account fraud as other forms of this type of fraud.

In an effort to protect yourself from becoming a victim of check fraud, here are 10 helpful tips to consider:

1. Secure checks in a locked drawer or cabinet
2. Before discarding a check, whether it is used or blank, shred it
3. Mail envelopes with checks enclosed only at the post office and do not leave them in an unsecure mailbox on the curb
4. Personally pick up new checks you order from your credit union or have them sent to a locked mailbox location
5. Write checks to merchants and people you trust
6. Use gel pens when writing a check to resist chemicals that criminals use to erase checks
7. Close compromised checking accounts if fraud has occurred
8. Report stolen checks to your credit union immediately to help avoid liability for fraudulent checks drawn on your account
9. Use debit or credit cards instead of checks when shopping
10. Work with Denver Fire Department FCU to set up online bill payment to reduce the amount of checks you write each month as a method to go paperless for safer banking

Get Into the Driver's Seat of a New Vehicle

Buy With Confidence Through AutoTrek



AutoTrek and Denver Fire Department Federal Credit Union are partnered

to provide an automotive resource for members designed to guide you before, during and after the purchase of your next vehicle. Your credit union membership also allows you to take advantage of the huge vehicle savings due to AutoTrek's tremendous buying power. Whether you are looking for a new or used vehicle or just need to gather information, AutoTrek is here to guide you along your automotive journey.

AutoTrek member benefits also include: access to NADA "blue book" values, new vehicle invoice price guides, "fleet" pricing on new vehicles, "below book" pricing on used vehicles, and discounts on a large assortment of auto related products and services. Additionally, AutoTrek offers a 3-month, 3,000 mile limited warranty, plus 1-year nationwide roadside assistance on all its used vehicles.

For more information visit www.dfdcu.com and click on the AutoTrek logo.

Use Free ATM Access at 5,300+ 7-Eleven Locations



To help make your life easier Denver Fire Department FCU is part of the CO-OP ATM Network which means it is teamed with 7-Eleven, Inc. and provides FREE ATM access for network members in their stores.



The CO-OP Network has over 1,845 credit unions participating in the network. Members can access 25,000 network ATM terminals across the nation and in Canada, all surcharge-free!

National Credit Union Youth Week™ Is April 20-26, 2008

Got Green? Grow It at Your Credit Union

Grade: F. That's the average report card 12th graders earned for financial literacy in 2006. For about a decade, the Jump\$tart Coalition® has been surveying high-school seniors about personal finance.

What our youth don't know is shocking. For example, only 23% understand that interest/dividends on savings accounts may be taxable. Only 40% realize they could lose their health insurance if their parents become unemployed.

Achieving economic prosperity is difficult. It's especially hard for young people who've never learned how to manage money. Your credit union is ideally positioned to respond because we believe in the power of education. We're here to help you launch the youth in your life toward financial independence.

Join. As a start, open a savings account for each child in your family at the credit union. As soon as your children can write, have them fill out deposit and withdrawal slips. Guide teenagers through using a debit card and balancing a checkbook.

Share. Include your children in your household finance discussions. Show them how you budget income and expenses. As their skills improve, give them challenges—such as finding a better cell-phone plan, calculating the total monthly cost of owning a car, or sticking to a budget with back-to-school or holiday spending.

Coach. Remind your children to ask for help when they need it. And turn to your credit union when you want help. Our tradition of service and philosophy of self-help make Denver Fire Department Federal Credit Union and all credit unions a natural partner in pursuing financial security.

Join us this year as we celebrate National Credit Union Youth Week from April 20-26. Our theme for 2008 is "Got Green? Grow It at Your Credit Union."

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Planning to Build? Let Us Help!

Denver Fire Department FCU has teamed up with Centennial Lending to provide credit union members with a trusted lender to offer beneficial advice, flexible rates and terms and a smart financial solution for your loan program. Through the partnership Centennial Lending can provide members like you with various levels of mortgage, construction and commercial lending services.

Additionally available through Denver Fire Department FCU's is construction lending. We provide competitive interest rates and costs for construction projects with terms that typically range from six to 12 months. This is a great one-stop-shop loan process for members from construction to permanent.

Denver Fire Department FCU can also help with business lending. For a business looking to construct a new building to occupy, or use the commercial property as a rental or investment we can help.

Whatever you're planning to build let Denver Fire Department FCU make it happen.



Debit Cards Too Risky for Online Shopping

Use the wrong payment method or the wrong piece of plastic when shopping online and someone you don't know could zero out your checking account balance in a matter of minutes. Remember some simple cyber rules to avoid becoming a statistic (Credit Union National Association center for personal finance).

It's a fact: The safest form of payment online is a credit card, although there still are risks, particularly if you don't know the reputation of the seller. But if you're a die-hard debit card user and insist on using it for online purchases, you're putting yourself at much greater risk than if you use a credit card for those same purchases.

Why? Because debit cards are regulated by the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, which is weaker than the law that regulates credit cards. What you need to remember has to do with liability:

- *Credit card liability.* Federal law protects you so your liability is no more than \$50 (per card) if a crook uses your card fraudulently before you report the theft. Report the theft before the crook uses your card, and your liability is zero. Even if you're subject to the \$50 liability, some issuers may waive that amount.
- *Debit card liability.* Here's where it gets sticky. If you report the theft within two business days, your liability is limited to \$50, and again, some issuers may waive that amount. However, after two business days, your liability jumps to \$500. And if you don't report the loss or theft within 60 days of receiving your statement, your liability is unlimited.



To further compound the problem, remember that debit card purchases are deducted immediately from your account. If the debit charges are unauthorized or incorrect--such as double billing--they may be harder to recover; to get your money back, you'll need to work it out with the merchant, which may be much more difficult for online transactions.

On the other hand, if you file a dispute over fraudulent charges made on your credit card, the card issuer's money is on the line--not yours--and it's up to the issuer to get the money from the merchant.

Bottom line: Don't use a debit card for online purchases. Use a credit card on sites of reputable sellers. And follow more simple advice from the Federal Trade Commission:

- Get the seller's phone number in case you have questions or problems.
- Type the seller's name in your search engine to see if there are unfavorable reviews.
- Read the website's privacy policy to see how your personal information will be used.
- Understand the return policies.
- When entering payment information, make sure the <http://> changes to <https://> in the site's URL address line.
- Don't shop online unless your computer has antivirus and antispyware software, and a firewall.

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American Eagle Mortgage Offers Special Mortgage Options



American Eagle Mortgage, Inc., in partnership with Denver Fire Department Federal Credit Union, has special first mortgage options for members. American Eagle Mortgage is happy to guide and counsel each and every credit union member individually to achieve their goal of home ownership or improving their existing mortgage.

Opportunities abound to pay off credit card debt, student loans, high interest rate loans or make home improvements.

American Eagle Mortgage, Inc. is here to honestly and accurately describe the mortgage options available. It will outline a plan of attack for each member to reach their goals. For some it will be a one week process, for others they may need to plan out six months to one year. American Eagle Mortgage will counsel the member into their best option to save them the most money.

A credit union member's first step toward a home purchase should be to talk with American Eagle Mortgage, as you and your credit union's lender, and with a quick pre-qualification, the member is much more comfortable to "house shop". When the "light is green", the seller appreciates a letter from American Eagle Mortgage assuring them of the potential buyer.