

STOP! Don't open your door – is it a friendly neighbor or is that friendly neighbor toting a gun & looking for a shooting spree?

STOP! Don't answer that phone – it could be the IRS threatening you about unpaid back taxes or a scam artist pleading for a contribution to a charity.

STOP! Read the (very) fine print that assures you your privacy is guaranteed – except for all the businesses they share it with.

STOP! Check that bag of frozen veggies before you toss it in the microwave – could be it's contaminated with shards of glass, sawdust or e-coli.

STOP! Before you get in your car to go buy more veggies. You know accidents happen from fender benders to head-on crashes – but are you comfortable sharing the road with short tempered maniacs?

STOP! Think twice about visiting the Bank or getting on a plane – killer bandits rob banks and terrorists blow up planes.

STOP! Reconsider swallowing that new pill your doctor prescribed – are the side effects worse than the original complaint?

Every day, in the newspaper, on the TV on the computer we are warned to watch out for a dozen new hazards that will harm, even kill us – we are prime targets for getting our very IDENTITIES stolen! SCAREY! So, tell me, how come despite all these warnings and predictions of doom and mayhem, how come there are still so many happy, contented people walking around, driving all over, cooking, eating, taking care of business, socializing, birthing babies, attending Meetings? How come we are not all cowering in corners just waiting for the worst to befall? Do these warnings fall on deaf ears? Are we over-confident that "It won't happen to ME?"

The general consensus appears to be – "Thanks for the heads-up. I've noted the admonitions. I'll be cognizant of possible dangers and take precautions, but I have a life to live and, to the best of my ability, I intend to enjoy it. My time is too precious to give in to fear. I plan to *beware* and *aware* and stay calm and carry on!

