



HERMOSA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME PREVENTION NOTICE



May 8, 2014

Subject: Telephone Scams



The number of Hermosa Beach residents and businesses that have been targeted by telephone and internet scams is on the rise. Utility and IRS scammers will often use aggressive tactics to get their victims to comply. Others will prey on your vulnerability in an attempt to draw personal information out of you. In an effort to protect you from becoming a victim of these crimes, we've put together a list of things to watch out for.

SCE/LADWP SCAM

It's important that you remember that utility companies never use high-pressure tactics to collect or demand money for past due bills, ask for payment by a pre-paid card, and would not threaten immediate termination of service. Please inform your family members and employees that if a call is received from SCE or LADWP demanding money:

- **NEVER GIVE THE CALLER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.**
- **ASK FOR THE CALLER'S NAME, DEPARTMENT AND BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER. VERIFY THE PHONE NUMBER GIVEN WITH THE NUMBER ON A RECENT UTILITY STATEMENT OR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY'S WEBSITE.**
- **IF THE CALLER REFUSES TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION, TERMINATE THE CALL AND REPORT THE INCIDENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**
- **IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS EMAIL, NEVER CLICK ANY LINKS OR OPEN ANY ATTACHMENTS. DELETE THE EMAIL RIGHT AWAY.**
- **CONTACT SCE AT 800-655-4555, OR LADWP AT 800-DIAL-DWP**

IRS SCAM

Scammers have called residents claiming they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If you get a similar call, the IRS would like you to remember:

- **THE IRS WILL NEVER ASK FOR CREDIT CARD NUMBERS OVER THE PHONE, WIRE TRANSFERS, OR PRE-PAID DEBIT CARDS.**
- **IF YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM THE IRS THREATENING POLICE ARREST, DEPORTATION, OR LICENSE REVOCATION IF YOU DO NOT PAY IMMEDIATELY, IT'S A SCAM.**
- **IF YOU GET A PHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE THE IRS, AND YOU KNOW YOU OWE TAXES, CALL THE IRS AT 800-829-1040 TO CONFIRM AND TO MAKE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.**
- **IF YOU KNOW YOU DO NOT OWE TAXES, CALL THE IRS AND REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION AT 800-366-4484**

GRANDPARENTS SCAM

Some area residents have received phone calls from someone claiming to be their grandson or granddaughter who's in trouble and in need of money. These calls often occur either very early in the morning or late at night when you are most likely to be confused. If you receive a call like this:

- **RESIST THE PRESSURE TO ACT QUICKLY. REMEMBER, THESE SCAMMERS ARE VERY CONVINCING, SO TAKE YOUR TIME AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONFIRM THE SITUATION IS REAL.**
- **TRY TO CONTACT YOUR GRANDCHILD OR ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE CALL IS LEGITIMATE.**
- **NEVER WIRE MONEY BASED ON A REQUEST MADE OVER THE PHONE OR IN AN EMAIL, ESPECIALLY OVERSEAS.**
- **REMEMBER, WIRING MONEY IS LIKE GIVING CASH; ONCE YOU SEND IT, YOU CAN'T GET IT BACK.**

If you have been a victim of these crimes, you can report it online to the U.S. Department of Justice Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force at <http://www.stopfraud.gov/>.