



NEWS RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Phone Scam

DATE / TIME: Friday, 09-22-17, 12:42 PM

CASE #: 17-08155

TYPE OF CRIME: Fraud, Grand Theft

Yet another phone scam is circulating through Santa Cruz County. Victims are being phoned at their residences by suspects who have knowledge of their name, residence address and phone number. The suspect advises the victim that they must pay a fine to avoid a warrant of arrest for missing jury duty. The suspect identifies themselves as an officer with the Sheriff's Office and use the address of the Sheriff's Office during the call. The suspect provides a fraudulent phone number that has voice mail. The suspect sometimes transfers the victim to another suspect who poses as a "Captain," or "Commander." The suspect advises the victim to purchase gift cards for as much as \$1,000 and transfer the value of the gift cards electronically to an account the suspect provides. The suspect advises that the victim will receive a partial refund once the warrant of arrest is cleared up.

The public should be advised not to give out personal information on the phone. You will never be asked to provide money, purchase gift cards or resolve a financial obligation by telephone or via the computer. You can always verify an officer by requesting their name, badge number and contacting their agency before providing information by phone. Be suspicious of unsolicited contact and never provide money or personal information without independent verification.

If you have been contacted by this scam there is no need to make a report unless you have sent money or have suffered a financial loss. If you have suffered a loss, you may contact Sheriff's Dispatch at (831) 471-1121 to speak with a deputy, a Sheriff's Volunteer at one of the Service Centers to make a report or you can submit a report online at scsheriff.com. Please reference Sheriff's Master Case #17-08155.

Authored by: Lieutenant Greg Lansdowne /August 28, 2017

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