



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Phil Wowak
Sheriff-Coroner

Sheriff's Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: 02/09/13 at 12:00 p.m.
Location of Incident: Santa Cruz
Case Number: 13-1232
Type of Incident: Fraud
Suspect(s): Unknown

Description of Incident:

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about phone scammers who target elderly citizens by claiming their grandson had been in a car accident out of the country and needs medical attention, but cannot get surgery until he has money. The "grandson" then requests the grandparent to wire the money through Western Union.

The Sheriff's Office received one report about this scam, but wanted to remind people to always confirm the emergency situation with a family member because money that is wired is almost never retrievable. The Internet and social network sites can reveal intimate details for scammers. Never give out personal or financial information over the phone and independently verify to determine if an actual emergency exists.

Press Release Prepared by: Deputy April Skalland

Press Release Approved by: Lt. Craig Wilson