



HILLSBOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Type of Incident: FRAUD ALERT/SPECIAL ATTENTION ELDERLY RESIDENTS

Date: 11/19/09 Time: 1540

Elderly Hillsborough residents have recently been targeted by three different scams.

Scam #1 - A telephone scam where a subject calls an individual and claims to be their child or grandchild who is in trouble or had been involved in a car accident. The suspect then requests a sum of money (usually \$3000-5000) to be wired to them in Canada or Mexico.

Scam #2 - Jamaican lotto scam - A telephone scam where a subject calls an individual and advises them they have won the lottery or a sweepstakes. They request wire money transfers for tax or processing purposes usually to Jamaica. Lotteries originating outside the United States are illegal and ALWAYS a scam. If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.

Scam #3 - Elderly victims are approached in a parking lot or at their home by 2 Hispanic males. The suspects claim the victim's vehicle collided with theirs and caused damage. They request a sum of money and will follow the victim to the bank in order to collect the cash.

Reminder - Always verify the source whenever there is a request for any type of payment. If you feel you have been the victim of one of these scams please call the Hillsborough Police Department Investigations Division 650-375-7470. If you are approached in a parking lot or your residence as in scam #3, call the police immediately to respond to the scene. If the collision is legitimate, the second party should not object if police respond to the scene.

The Hillsborough Police Department also offers the Vehicle Safety Adjustments For Elderly (V-SAFE) program. The V-SAFE program consists of assisting elderly drivers by adjusting seating position, controls and identifying hazards within their own vehicle. Contact V-SAFE Specialist Corporal Peter Scatena pscatena@hillsborough.net at 650-375-7598 to schedule an appointment.

For more information please refer to the Hillsborough Police department website:

<http://www.hillsborough.net/depts/police/default.asp>

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