

Avoid Phone Scams

Keep your identity and your money safe

There are many different types of phone scams but the main goal of a phone scammer is to:

- Get your personal information
- Get you to buy a visa/gift card, wire transfer or give your credit card or banking information to pay your fake fines

Scammers falsely claim they are from places like the IRS, the courts, the police department, the Sheriff's Office and other official agencies.

Scammers do a little research online and give tidbits of true information in the call to make you think it could be legitimate. They will even lie and use an officer's name from the agency they claiming to be from.

They use technology to make your caller ID falsely show the name of the agency they are supposedly calling from. This is called "Spoofing".

Some even set up a fake phone number for you to call back where you get a voicemail that sounds legitimate.

DO NOT Leave Information on Their Voicemails

Once a scammer has you on the phone **they will try to scare you.** They will say things like "You have been charged with a crime" or "you have a warrant for your arrest and you must pay us." They also may:

1. Raise their voice, yell, use profanities or other threatening tactics.

SAFEGUARD YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

SCAM ALERT

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REPORT A SCAM, CALL NON EMERGENCY DISPATCH AT (503) 325-4411

- 1. CURRENT SCAMS:**
 - Calls regarding warrants
 - Calls requesting money or personal information
 - Using phone numbers that appear to be law enforcement
- 2. SCARE TACTICS:**
 - They will say you committed a crime
 - Try to force you to take immediate action
 - They may have information about you and will want you to verify the information
- 3. PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION:**

DO NOT:

 - Do NOT answer calls from unknown numbers or open emails from unknown people/sites
 - Do NOT give out your personal information
 - Do NOT give out money, gift cards, credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.

TO DO:

 - Question Every Call
 - Secure your personal information
 - Take time to think before you take action
 - Sign up for DO NOT CALL REGISTRY
- 4. LAW ENFORCEMENT:**
 - Will NOT call or email you if you have a warrant, fine or fee
 - Does NOT enforce tax law
 - Will NOT ask you to make a payment on the phone with a gift card or money order

2. Try to fluster you by creating a sense of urgency by talking fast, pushing for you to “do something right now!”
3. Try to get you to buy gift cards and give them your credit card and banking information
4. Try to get your personal and sensitive information. Do NOT give sensitive information such as Date of Birth, social security, home address, mailing address, bank account numbers. Scammers use this to steal your identity.

Stay Safe:

1. Do **NOT** answer a call from a number you don't recognize! Let it go to voicemail
2. Question EVERY call: Ask yourself if this could be a spam call.
3. STOP! Do **NOT** give out personal or banking information, especially date of birth, social security number, or bank account numbers.
4. Block spam calls by silencing all unknown callers on your phone, installing a spam-filtering app and registering your number on the national Do Not Call Registry

Law Enforcement will:

1. **NEVER** call you if you have a warrant, fine or fee.
2. **NEVER** e-mail you if you have a warrant, fine or fee
3. **NEVER** Enforce tax law. We are **NOT** the IRS.
4. **NEVER ask you to make a payment on the phone, with a gift card, money order.**

Sheriff Phillips talks about phone scams



[Watch the video](#)