

**Phone Scam Alert: Scammers Impersonating Ventura Police Employees**

Residents are advised that phone scammers have been targeting residents impersonating Ventura Police Employees. The scammers are using a device that makes it appear to the victim that the phone call is coming from the Ventura Police business line of 805-339-4400. The scammer is telling residents that they have an out of county warrant and need to pay a fee or face arrest. Please be advised that the Ventura Police Department does not request personal information over the phone and would not solicit this type of information.

The community is urged to be vigilant and aware of these scams to avoid falling victim. Never follow directions from someone on the phone that requests personal information or money. If you believe you have been the victim of a scam in which you have suffered financial loss, contact the Ventura Police Department at 805-339-4400. If you have not suffered financial loss and you have not provided any personal information by phone please report the call to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

The community is also advised to be aware of additional phone scams that have impacted residents:

**IRS Scam:** The scammer says money is owed and must be paid immediately by phone.

**Edison/Gas Scam:** The scammer says money is owed and if not paid immediately the service will be turned off.

**Jury Duty Scam:** The scammer says money is owed for not showing up to jury duty and if not paid jail time will occur.

**Social Security/Medicare Scam:** The scammer says they are an officer with the social security office or with Medicare. They say your account has been hacked and then they proceed to ask for personal information.

**"Can You Hear Me" Scam:** Scammers are calling victims hoping to get them to say the word "yes" during the conversation that's being recorded. The scammer will later use the recording of the victim saying yes to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account.

**Text Message Phishing Scam:** Scammers are using a new texting scam and spoofing banks' phone numbers and sending text messages to customers. A spoofed phone number hides the actual number the text is coming from and displays a number from a trusted source, like your bank. The text claims that your debit card has been used to make a purchase and if you do not recognize the transaction, you need to call their fraud prevention helpline. A phone number is provided for you to call. Because the incoming text looks like it's from your bank, people are falling for this. If you do call the number provided in the text, the fraudster will answer the phone. They will then ask you to confirm your sensitive banking details. This would allow the scammer to steal money from your account.

**Grandparent Scam:** A scammer poses as a grandchild and claims to be in jail and in need of money for bail. These imposters claim they are in another state or out of the country and need money wired to help bail them out of jail.