

City of **BECKER**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

 **SCAM ALERTS**

~ What to look out for ~



They say they are from the POLICE! A new tactic is to say they are from the IRS or calling for a relative in jail.

With the IRS, they say you will go to jail if you don't send money for the taxes that you owe. This is a LIE! The IRS will not do this kind of business on the phone or demand a specific kind of payment. Do not give the caller any information. Hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040 or www.irs.gov.

If they say you have a relative in jail, its likely not true either. Even if the caller ID states that the call originates from a police department, it may not be legit. Make some phone calls to relatives first to check the information out!!

You may even be told that they, or YOU, may lose your

drivers license if you don't pay up. Don't get caught up in this game. Verify the information first.

CHARITY SOLICITATIONS

There has been an increase in the number of calls to people to donate to veterans organizations and to the Police or Firefighters funds.

Always check them out before donating! Can they send you information? Do they ask for personal information over the phone? Check with friends and relatives to see if they have a legitimate track record. If not, do not send anything and notify the local authorities.

COMPUTER/EMAIL SCAMS

Have you received emails from someone you don't know advising you they have money in their possession that is actually yours.

These typically originate overseas, and usually have come from Africa. You haven't won the lottery You also do not

need to pay someone to collect that \$5 million dollar prize. Do not send any information over the internet or the phone because it isn't true. Print off a copy of the email and check with the Police Department.

DOOR SOLICITATIONS

Kids do it all the time, so what's the big deal? Remember, these people are coming to you and looking you right in the face. Often they come to your home to sell books and magazines. They then get your personal information and even credit information to use for themselves.

If they come to your door, ask to see their City Permit authorizing them to go door-to-door. The City of Becker requires this of those who sell products (schools activities, churches would be exempt). Those who are legitimate will have the permit, those who do not, will just leave. Report this activity to the Police Department.