



FOR RELEASE: August 18, 2009
MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Kopicko (313) 224-3758
DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Captain Christopher Dixon (313) 596-2968

DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT WARNS OF FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR SCAMS

Several Detroit area businesses have been targeted and victimized by one or more imposters who have posed as an official Detroit Fire Marshal Division Fire Prevention Inspector, trying to collect cash or checks on behalf of the City. Business owners should be aware that official inspectors wear Detroit Fire Department Official uniforms and badges, and always arrive in an official, marked Detroit Fire Department vehicle.

Business owners should always ask inspectors for identification and Detroit Fire Prevention Inspectors will present it willingly. "Detroit Fire Prevention Inspectors will conduct an inspection and leave the business without asking for cash or checks," said Fire Marshal Herbert K. White.

Following an official inspection, each business will receive one invoice from the City for the inspection. Business owners can contact the Fire Marshal Division to verify the authenticity of an official Detroit Fire Department invoice, or to verify employment in the Fire Marshal Division at (313) 596-2954.

(more)

FIRE INSPECTOR SCAMS-2

In order to ensure that visitors to Detroit businesses and residences are official Detroit Fire Marshal Division Fire Prevention Inspectors, residents should be aware of the following Detroit Fire Department regulations:

- Fire Prevention Inspectors **do not** solicit business.
- Fire Prevention Inspectors **do not** accept cash or checks in person for services rendered.
- Fire Prevention Inspectors on-duty **are** in Fire Department uniforms and have picture identification.

If someone makes an unscheduled appearance at your business or residence claiming to be an inspector for the Detroit Fire Marshal Division, please call one of the Detroit Police District numbers listed below or 911. To verify employment in the Fire Marshal Division, residents can call (313) 596-2954. If you have become a victim we encourage you to make a police report.

Central District
Formerly 1st and 13th Precincts
4747 Woodward Ave.
313-596-1300

Western District
Formerly 10th and 12th Precincts
1441 W. 7 Mile Rd.
313-596-1200

Southwestern District
Formerly 2nd and 3rd Precincts
4700 W. Fort St.
313-596-5300

Eastern District
Formerly 5th and 9th Precincts
11184 Gratiot
313-596-1100

Northeastern District
Formerly 7th and 11th Precincts
5100 E. Nevada
313-596-5500

Northwestern District
Formerly 6th and 8th Precincts
11450 Warwick
313-596-5600