



Vacaville Police Department

660 Merchant Street

Vacaville, California 95688

Communications Center: 707.449.5200

Internet: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police/pressrelease.php>

Press Release

Today's Date: 3-27-09
Date & Time Occurred: 3-27-09
Submitted By: Officer Polik
Phone: 707-446-5200
Case Number
Type of Crime/Incident: Fraud against Senior Citizens
Location: Leisure Town
Suspects: No description

Narrative:

The Vacaville Police is alerting the public about an emerging scam against Senior Citizens.

The suspect profiles Senior Citizens based on their address – they look for age-restricted residential communities and find the phone numbers for residents. The suspect calls early in the morning and pretends to be a young relative of the resident. They ask a series of questions that gets enough information to gain the trust of the victim and usually tells the victim "You always said I could call if I needed help and I know I can trust you." The suspect then says that they are in trouble while on vacation or out of the area. The stories range from being in jail, to being in a car accident, or in a foreign country and needing cash to get home. The suspect makes the situation sound desperate and asks the victim to not tell anyone else, since they don't want others to worry and they will explain it all when they get back. The caller gives instructions on where to wire the money. Later, when the victim speaks with other family members, the victim discovers they are a victim of fraud.

The Vacaville Police Department recommends that anyone receiving an emergency call like this with an urgent request to send money should verify the exact location where the caller is and then call other relatives to verify the story. The hurried nature of the call and the request to not talk to anyone else is a sign that the call is fraudulent. If anyone receives a call and cannot verify if there actually is an emergency, please call the Vacaville Police at 449-5200 before you send any money. We will help in any way possible to verify and assist with an actual emergency or investigate if a fraud has occurred.

