SUBJECT: Tips on Avoiding Fraud Victimization
CR# N/A
DATE OF INCIDENT: Monday, December 18, 2013
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NARRATIVE:

The UFPD would like to alert the community that this is the season for increases in on-line and telephone fraud cases.

One such case was reported recently involving a UF employee who received a call supposedly from IRS employees. The UF employee was told he would need to pay his tax bill immediately or an arrest warrant would be issued. The UF employee purchased cash cards to pay the supposed bill and provided the information to the caller over the phone. When the victim called the card company a short time later, it was discovered that the cards had already been cashed.

The UFPD would also like to remind everyone of these basic safety considerations:

Never trust the caller just because they say they are with an agency you are familiar with.

Get as much information as possible from the caller to verify the information they are providing is correct and never provide them with your personal information, they should have this if they need it.

Do not be rushed to a decision based on threats. A phone call would not be the first notification you received in regards to this type of case.

Require callers to send an itemized bill of what you owe, NEVER provide payment over the phone until you have verified the debt. Government agencies will not require you to stay on the phone and immediately provide them with cash card payments.

Obtain a physical address where you can mail payment and a phone number. Verify both of these are valid for the entity that the caller claims to be with.
For other tips on avoiding fraud victimization, please visit the FBI website on avoiding scams at http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/

For questions regarding information contained in this release, please contact Captain Jeff Holcomb at (352) 273-3301. If after hours, please call (352) 392-1111 (#UFPD (#8373) and ask to speak to a Patrol Supervisor. I can also be reached via e-mail at: jholcomb@ufl.edu. or see the UFPD webpage at http://www.police.ufl.edu.

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