



MOONACHIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Telephone Scams

The Moonachie Police Department has been receiving an extraordinary number of reports of telephone scams in our area. The targets of these scams are both residents and businesses. The caller in these scams requests payment by way of credit card information, bank account information, and prepaid credit/gift cards. Other personal and identifying information may also be requested. The caller may provide the target with information such as names, addresses, birthdays or other information that may lead the target to believe it is a legitimate call, when in fact this information has been obtained fraudulently or from the internet.

The caller will state that unless the information or payment being requested is not turned over within a specified period of time (usually an hour or less) that immediate action will be taken such as service disconnection, legal action and imprisonment.

Some of the most common recent scams include:

IRS Phone Scam: Caller claims to be agent of IRS or calling from IRS Collections department and claims that the target owes back taxes.

Telephone / Gas Company: Caller claims to be from a utility company and states that unpaid or overdue bill needs to be paid immediately or the electric, gas, phone, etc will be immediately disconnected

Hostage Scam: Caller claims to have a family member or friend being held hostage and that ransom needs to be paid for their safe release.

Residents and businesses are urged not to provide financial or other personal identifying information over the telephone. If you receive any of these types of calls, disconnect and call the police department.

Despite then increase in phone scams calls from these companies and government agencies may be legitimate. **If someone believes the call may be legitimate they should end the call and contact that company by using contact information from trusted sources (i.e. your gas/electric/phone bill, or your tax records).**

The Police Department investigates these calls to the extent possible, however, many of these calls originate out of the United States and using fake telephone numbers. Please call the Police Department if you have any questions. Thank you.