

Waunakee Police Department

Newsletter

March 2014



Scam Alerts

Crooks often use clever schemes to victimize millions of people each year. The list is long for the amount of different scams we have heard about which have occurred in Waunakee. The following is a small sample of common scams which have occurred in Waunakee within the last year.



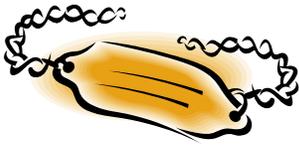
The 1 Ring phone scam

This scam starts with a call to your phone with 1 ring and a hang up. The victim checks the caller ID and does not recognize the number but is curious so they call the number back. A person or machine answers and asks to place you on hold.....Now they got you. By calling them back you just opened yourself up to being billed international phone charge rates. The longer you stay on hold the bigger the charge. This type of scam has been around since the 1980's. Bottom line... don't call back numbers you don't recognize.



Warrant Scam

A scam reaching people across Wisconsin, phone scammers are using the threat of arrest warrants to pressure people into handing over hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars. The callers, manipulating caller ID to make the number appear to come from the local sheriff's office or jail, tell potential victims they have an outstanding warrant, missed jury duty or some other infraction and that a fine is due. The callers convince people to make the payments by wiring it through Western Union or buying a prepaid credit card like Green Dot and registering it online. These types of money transactions are almost impossible to trace back to the scammers.



Medical Alert Scam

Another scam targeting senior citizens is going through Wisconsin. Just the other day a family member of mine told me they suspect they were targeted for this scam. The scam goes something like this: A phone call is placed to the home and a recorded voice advises that someone: a child, doctor or other family member signed you up for a medical alert device. Some callers advise they are associated with Medicare or a recognizable insurance agency or local hospital.

The recorded voice requests you to press 1 to obtain the free medical alert device. You are then routed to a real person who is likely based out of the United States. This person asks for personal identifying information and bank account information to ship this free medical alert device. Don't give out any personal information to callers making this claim. If you get a call such as this it is very likely it is a scam. Don't push any buttons and hang up the phone.



Computer Scam

This alert was sent in by a newsletter reader and goes as follows: You may receive an E-mail claiming that a package can't be delivered by FedEx, UPS, or any other delivery service. The e-mail says your package sent on (date) can't be delivered to the recipient as there is a problem with the address, or some other problem. The e-mail has a link for you to click on and follow their instructions. This link may contain a malware virus which then infects your computer. In doing so, the SPAMMER/PHISHER now is able to "capture" any of your personal information whenever you try to log on, use banking information, etc.



Meat Sale Scam

An individual comes to your residence and tells you he delivered meat to a local restaurant and has some left over. He doesn't want to take the meat back the company and offers to sell it to you for a great price. The seller acts like he is doing you a special favor while trying to make a few dollars. In fact, the weight of the product is usually much less than the package indicates and the quality of meat is poor. (Remember permits are required for door to door sales such as this in Waunakee)

To file a consumer complaint, visit datcp.wi.gov, send an email to datcp hotline@wisconsin.gov or call the Consumer Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7128.



Winter Heating Safety

This winter has been a tough one! As we struggle to stay warm this winter, we have to remember safety first. Use extreme caution when using portable heaters of any kind and be aware that carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Every year people are injured or killed by the silent killer. Any fossil fuel burning appliance emits this silent killer and should only be used in ventilated areas.

Electric heaters can easily be knocked over by pets and children and are significant fire and burn hazards. Any time you are looking to supplement the heat in any location, be sure to consider what could happen if the unexpected occurs.



School Zones

Let's think positive and prepare for warmer weather. The last few months out on patrol the pedestrian traffic has been to a minimum. With the warmer weather coming we will have an increased number of pedestrians on sidewalks and roadways. This is especially true in school zones. Every school zone has a special speed limit sign posted. These signs insure drivers are aware they are traveling through a school zone. School zones have special speed limit restrictions, reducing speed limits to **15 MPH**. The adjusted speed limit applies anytime children are present; whether the children are on the adjacent sidewalks, parking lots, or on the roadway. Penalties for violating school safety zone speed limits carry stiffer penalties than normal speeding violations.



Private Citizens and Family Members Concerned about unsafe drivers

It is not easy to decide to report a relative or friend to Wisconsin Department of Transportation, but concern for the driver's safety and the safety of others is usually the deciding factor. If you know someone who could be dangerous behind the wheel because of a medical condition, you may report this to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Medical Review Unit. You can download a MV3141 form by going to the following website (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/medical/citizens.htm>) or go to a DMV office and request a form.

Symptoms which affect driving

- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Memory loss
- Impaired judgment
- Extreme exhaustion
- Difficulty making simple decisions
- Chronic drowsiness
- Impaired response/reaction time
- Inability to concentrate
- Impulsive behaviors
- Severe shortness of breath
- Episodes of impaired or altered consciousness

What is needed for WisDOT to act?

- Positive identification of the driver such as full name, date of birth and current address. The license plate number is not enough; the driver could be someone other than the owner of the car.
- A report that is signed. If the report is from a private citizen, another person must also sign the report indicating they are able to verify the information.
- A description of behaviors, observations or impairment related to driving
WisDOT will not take action based only on a diagnosis or a person's advanced age.

Facebook

Please “like” our Waunakee Police Department Facebook page. We provide information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Waunakee-Police-Department/349673238430794>

Newsletter ideas or topics

If you have a topic or idea you would like us to consider for future Waunakee Police Newsletter, please email the idea for consideration to the address below.

Questions can be sent to newsletter@waunakeepd.org. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.