



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

DATE: August 7, 2012
SUBJECT: SCAM ALERT

We've received a few reports in recent days regarding a scam targeting residents who use an alarm system in their homes that everyone should be aware of. Here's how it's been presented thus far:

The homeowner receives a call from someone stating that President Obama has recently passed legislation that will cause their home alarm system to be deactivated. The caller then requests personal and financial information from the homeowner so that a new alarm system/account can be established to ensure that their system will continue to work without interruption.

The immediate flaws with this scam that should raise a red flag:

- 1) I'm quite certain President Obama is a busy man, worried about many things. However, I'm also pretty sure the leader of the free world has bigger things to worry about than the status of residential burglar alarms.
- 2) Victims are receiving an unsolicited call with the ultimate purpose of obtaining their personal financial information.

The same rules apply here as they do with many scams.

- 1) Never divulge your personal information to someone over the phone **unless it is a call that you initiated, to a source that you are absolutely certain is legitimate.**
- 2) Do not allow callers to intimidate you by invoking the name of an important figure, up to and including... the President of the United States.
- 3) If there is ever any doubt about the validity of such a call, obtain a name and number from the caller, do some research online or contact your local law enforcement agency to inquire about it.

As we see with many telephone scams, this one seems to be targeting our senior residents, who many scammers think are easier to take advantage of. Please spread the word to friends and those in your family who you think may be at risk of being targeted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Sergeant Stephen Wilbanks
Crime Prevention Officer
Hall County Sheriff's Office
610 Main St. SW
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-533-7674
swilbanks@hallcounty.org