



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

DATE: July 14, 2010
SUBJECT: Fire Department Scam

A citizen contacted Hall County Fire Services today with a concern about an unknown person that called his home attempting to solicit money for some type of "Burn Unit." The caller claimed to be a Hall County Firefighter working out of station 6 on McEver Road. A few things should be noted regarding this:

- 1) **Hall County Fire Services does not call and solicit money for anything by phone.**
- 2) **Station 6 is not on McEver Road. It's not even close to McEver Road.**
- 3) **The only "burn units" we have are at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta. Again, not even close.**

Always be wary of telephone solicitations. Scammers have no conscience whatsoever and will pose as anyone in an attempt to get your money. Firefighters, clergy, children's healthcare, nothing is out of bounds for these people. Even law enforcement has been used in scams like this in the past with callers stating they were with the Fraternal Order of Police, etc.

The bottom line is this: if you really feel compelled to donate to a cause, hang up the phone, get online and research the organization. If they accept donations, there will be plenty of information there to help you verify their validity. ***If there is any doubt, err on the side of caution and hang on to your money!***

And for those interested in donating to a good cause through Hall County Fire Services, every year their personnel can be seen prominently at roadway intersections throughout the county during their annual "Give Burns the Boot" fundraiser. More information can be found here:

<http://www.gfbf.org/boot-drive.php?c=141&w=2&r=Y>

Information about Hall County Fire Services can be found here:

<http://www.hallcounty.org/fireservices/>

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