

CRIME ALERT REGARDING TEXT MESSAGING SCAM

Recently incidents have been reported to the Sheriff's Office regarding scams via text messaging. These have involved receiving a text implying errors or other account issues from a credit union account. The most recent one involves Sooper Credit Union, and was featured on a local news story. These messages ask that you contact a phone number they supply or reply with your account information or credit card information.

The best way in dealing with these communications is to verify the information you've received by calling a phone number you're familiar with for your financial institution, NOT calling the number provided in the text message. You also should not respond to the text message with any personal information. You need to treat these communications with the same skepticism you should use when receiving an email from a source you're not familiar with. Also remember that federal governments agencies such as the FBI and the IRS do not communicate via email or text when they have issues to address with you.

We've also received from local residents copies of letters they've gotten from locations from England to China. They come on what appears to be official letterheads, and promise the same things as the emails do: large amounts of money for a minimum investment. Please let those you know that may not be connected to the Internet about these scams as well.

Regards,

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