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SPOOFING SCAM WARNING

Ontario residents continue to receive deceptive phone calls designed to mislead them into sharing personal information or making fraudulent payments.

?Callers use spoofing technology to manipulate caller ID information, making it appear as though a local number, business or government agency is calling,? say Police. ?The goal is to create a false sense of trust and pressure the recipient into responding. Many of these calls rely on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, which allows individuals to make calls over the Internet while disguising their real phone numbers.?

Common Caller ID Spoofing Tactics

Neighbouring - The caller ID is altered to match the first six digits of the recipient's phone number, making it seem like a local call;

Mirroring - The recipient's own phone number appears on the caller ID to encourage them to answer;

Impersonation - The caller ID is changed to appear as a trusted organization, such as a financial institution, police service or government agency.

How to Protect Yourself

Don't trust caller ID - Numbers can be manipulated to appear legitimate;

Let unknown calls go to voicemail - If it's important, the caller will leave a message;

Never provide personal or financial information. Legitimate businesses and government agencies will not ask for sensitive details over the phone;

Hang up and verify - If unsure, contact the organization directly using a phone number from its official website;

Report suspicious calls - Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online via the Fraud Reporting System at www.services.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/chooser-eng.html?ipeReferer=CAFCFRS.

For more information on fraud prevention, visit opp.ca and sfo.opp.ca.

If you suspect fraudulent activity or have been a victim of fraud, report it immediately to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online via the Fraud Reporting System.

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver with impaired operation following a traffic complaint.

?On March 6, 2025, shortly after 11:00 p.m., Caledon OPP responded to a traffic complaint,? say Police. ?The officers located the vehicle in the community of Southfields Village. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.?

As a result of the investigation, Kiran Singh, 22, of Caledon, was charged with:

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concertation (80 plus).

The accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 27, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The charge has not been proven.

The OPP remains committed to taking alcohol/drug-impaired drivers off our roads through enforcement and public education. If you know or suspect that a driver is impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, call 9-1-1. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at https://peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: https://www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving

ADDITIONAL SCAMS IDENTIFIED FOR FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is issuing a warning to residents about ongoing fraudulent activities in Dufferin County. Fraudulent schemes are becoming more prevalent, and it is important to remain vigilant. If you suspect you have been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Here are some common fraud types currently circulating in the area:

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Scams/Fraud:

The caller claims to be a CRA agent;

You may be told that you have outstanding balances or owe taxes from previous years, or that there is an issue with your social insurance number;

The caller will request your personal information and may threaten arrest if you don't comply immediately.

Bank Scams/Fraud:

The caller pretends to be a bank official;

You may be asked to help with a local bank investigation;

The caller will request that you withdraw money from your personal account to assist in the so-called investigation;

The caller may ask to meet in a private location to obtain the cash.

Emergency Scams/Fraud:

The caller impersonates a loved one claiming to be in an emergency;

The caller may pose as a police officer or lawyer representing your loved one and urgently requests financial help.

Romance Scams/Fraud:

Suspects use social media or dating platforms to create fake profiles and establish quick, emotional connections;

They work hard to gain your trust, ultimately asking for money with broken promises in return.

Contractor Scams/Fraud:

The contractor requests large deposits upfront and may promise the world while refusing to pull the necessary permits;

The contractor may claim that additional funds are required to start or complete the job;

The contractor may offer ?great deals? on leftover materials from another job, pressuring you to pay more.

Residence Location Scams/Fraud:

The scammer may contact you with photos of your residence, stating that they know where you live and can see your property;

This tactic is designed to intimidate and manipulate you into responding or taking action;

Important: Do not click on any links in unsolicited emails or messages, especially if you are not 100% certain that they are legitimate.

Residents are urged to be cautious and skeptical of unsolicited calls, messages, or requests for money. Always verify the legitimacy of any individual or company before making financial commitments.

For more information or to report suspicious activity, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or the Ontario Provincial Police.

?Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities.?

If you suspect someone is driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol call 9-1-1. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestopperssdm.com.