



Public Safety

News and Tips

Scams



Don't Become a Scam Victim

Criminals defraud millions of people every year. The amount of education you have, your gender, or your income have little effect on the likelihood of becoming a scam victim. A study by the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) looked at the behaviors of those who are the most likely to become victims of scams. Here is what they found.



Call 911 EMERGENCY IN PROGRESS

NON-EMERGENCY
Fire (916) 774-5800
Police (916)-774-5000
Extension 1

Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville CA 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Fire Headquarters
401 Oak Street, Fire
Station #1
Roseville, CA 95678
(916) 774-5800
www.roseville.ca.us/fire

**Abandoned Vehicle
Hotline**
(916) 746-1022

**Alarms/Alarm
Permits**
(916) 774-5093

Animal Control
(916) 774-5090

**Community Events
& Neighborhood
Watch**
(916) 774-5050

Graffiti Abatement
(916) 746-1021

**Police news &
crime alert emails:**
www.roseville.ca.us/enotify

RCONA
(Roseville Coalition of
Neighborhood
Associations)
www.RCONA.org



- **Consumer fraud victims get sold by persuasion tactics.** These victims report attending sales presentations when they are offered a free meal or hotel stay. They are also easily persuaded to enter personal information into a drawing to win a prize.
- **Consumer fraud victims are less likely to take preventive actions to protect themselves from fraud.** They don't sign up for fraud prevention measures like the "Do Not Call List," and they don't check references for businesses before hiring them.
- **Consumer fraud victims expose themselves to many sales situations.** These victims often allow sales people into their homes to make a presentation, and they are more likely to open and read every piece of mail they receive.



BBB's Top Scams of 2013

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) recently put out their list of top scams for 2013.

- **Medical Alert Scam** - Scammers target seniors with promise of a "free" medical alert system. They ask for bank information and charge a monthly fee without delivering anything.
- **Arrest Warrant Scam** - Criminals change the caller ID to look as if they are from local law enforcement with a warrant for your arrest. Pay a fine or be arrested.
- **Home Improvements Scam** - Unlicensed workers provide shoddy repairs. The hardest to detect are repairs to places you can't see like chimneys, air ducts, etc. Check bbb.org first.
- **Foreign Currency Scam** - Scammers convince consumers to invest in foreign currency. Then when governments revalue their currency holders of Iraqi Dinar, Vietnamese Dong, or Egyptian Pounds can cash in. The money may be real but the payoff isn't.
- **Scam Texts** - Scam texting (smishing) is on the rise. You get a text alert from your bank asking you to confirm information or to "reactivate your debit card." The scammers obtain personal banking information and PINs.
- **Do Not Call Scams** - Scammers pretend to be from the government and call to sign you up. Sharing personal information can lead to identity theft.

Top Scam of the Year:

- **Affordable Care Act Scam** - Scammers fool Americans into sharing personal information.

For a complete list of the top scams of 2013 go to bbb.org

Steps to Avoid Tax Refund Fraud

It's tax time and thieves are busy trying to steal your tax refund. What can you do?

- **Get Organized**
Employers, banks, and organizations are required to mail tax documents to you by January 31. If you are still waiting for something, contact the company. These documents contain just what thieves need to steal your identity.
- **File Early**
Gather your tax documents and file early. Filing online is the fastest way to get your refund.
- **Don't File and Forget**
Keep tabs on your refund by double-checking the status of your refund on the IRS website.
- **Avoid Phone Scams**
If you get a phone call about a problem with your return beware. The IRS will never call your first. They will mail you notices before calling.

Public Safety News & Tips

Emergency Detection Equipment

Spring Safety Check

Are you ready for spring? Don't forget on **Sunday, March 9, daylight savings time will begin**. Set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday, March 8, before you go to bed. For some people springtime signals a time to clean, and it is also a good time to do a seasonal safety check of your home. To get you started here are a few items you might want to check in your home to keep you and your family safe.

- **Change the clocks, change the batteries.** Smoke detectors and CO alarms save lives...if they are powered by new batteries. Some experts recommend replacing these batteries at least once a year.
Tip: Don't toss the replaced batteries. They may not be fully charged, but they can be used in children's toys, media players, or other devices. Use up the power in them before recycling.
- **Check the first-aid kit.** Spring and summer are coming. This means more bumps, cuts, and stings. Check your first-aid kit and replace any missing supplies.
- **Review your family emergency plan.** Will your family know what to do in an emergency? Review (or create) your family's emergency plan. Hold a meeting with all family members to explain what to do and where to go in case of an emergency. Make sure to update phone numbers, addresses, and contact information. Post an emergency contact list near your phone.

Frequently asked questions about smoke alarms:

- **Where do I put them?** Per 2010 California Residential Code (CRC) smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:
 - In each sleeping room.
 - Outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
 - On each additional story of the dwelling including basements, but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics.
- **How long will my smoke alarm last?** Most alarms installed today have a life span of about 8-10 years. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. It is a good idea to write the date of purchase with a marker on the inside of your alarm so you will know when to replace it. Some of the newer alarms already have the date written inside. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for replacement.
- **What if the alarm goes off while I'm cooking?** Do not disable your smoke alarm if it alarms due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm. Instead clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place. Most alarms have a temporary silence button you can use. Find it before you need it.
- **What is a hard-wired alarm?** Some smoke alarms are considered to be "hard-wired." This means they are connected to the household electrical system and may or may not have battery back-up. Therefore, it's important to test the alarm monthly and replace the batteries (if your unit has one) at least once a year.
- **How do I keep my smoke alarm working?**
 - Smoke alarms powered by long-lasting batteries are designed to replace the entire unit according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - In standard type battery powered smoke alarms, the batteries need to be replaced once a year and the whole unit every 8-10 years.
 - In hard-wired battery back up smoke alarms, the batteries need to be checked monthly, and replaced at least once a year. The entire unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.



Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small, confined fire or containing it **until the fire department arrives**.

However, fire extinguishers have limitations. Since fire grows and spreads rapidly, the first priority for residents is to get out safely.



To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**.

Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Use a fire extinguisher only if:

- Someone has **called 911**.
- You have **alerted all other occupants**.
- **The fire is small** and contained to a single object, like a wastebasket.
- **You are safe** from the toxic smoke produced by the fire.
- **You have a means of escape** identified and the fire is not between you and the escape route.
- **Your instincts tell you that it is safe to use an extinguisher.**

If all of these conditions are not present, you should NOT try to use a fire extinguisher. Alert all occupants, leave the building, go to your agreed upon meeting place, and call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

Resources U.S. Fire Administration, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Better Business Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice

The "Public Safety News & Tips" is published for City of Roseville's residents by the Community Relations Division of the Roseville Police and Fire Departments. Please send comments or suggestions to pdcommunityservices@roseville.ca.us, (916) 774-5050, or contact Rob Baquera at rbaquera@roseville.ca.us or (916) 774-5057