



Press Release

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"Serving Our Community"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KPD Offers Protective Tips from Email Phishing Scams

Kilgore, TX -- Several recent email phishing scams have been reported to the Kilgore Police Department in recent weeks. Countless variations of these scams have existed for years. The scams are usually based on providing you with a large amount of money or merchandise, but in order to collect the money or merchandise you in turn have to send the scammer a certain amount of money. Many times the money is requested via Western Union wire transfer. Phishing scams can also be used to steal personal or financial information. Unfortunately local law enforcement has limited ability to investigate these type crimes due to the overseas connections. Most of the perpetrators of these scams are located in other countries and are virtually impossible to track.

The Kilgore Police Department would like to offer the following tips for your protection against online phishing scams:

- If you do not know who sent the email do not open any attachments.
- Emails should be addressed to you by name not Dear Sir, Madam, Account Holder, etc...
- Do not send sensitive information by email.
- Password resets are usually not done via email.
- To win a prize or lottery you would have to enter a contest or lottery first.
- Overseas lotteries are illegal.
- Never wire money through Western Union or MoneyGram for payment of any online goods, fees or services.
- Never use any services recommended by the seller/agent.
- If it looks too good to be true it probably is.
- Check out the wording in any e-mail correspondence from the seller/agent. If the e-mail is from an overseas scam artist the wording of the e-mail may be in broken English.
- Websites, emails and links can easily be faked and made to look very authentic.
- Report Phishing to the U.S Computer Emergency Readiness Team US-CERT at <http://www.us-cert.gov/>