

Scam Log – June 2015

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has compiled this monthly scam report of local news stories and calls/e-mails to our Consumer Hotline.

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

- [Springfield](#): State police warn that scammers, who have the ability to make the telephone number of the Springfield barracks appear on the caller ID screens of would-be, victims, are on the prowl.
- [Marblehead](#): An Edgewood Road caller related at 12:59 p.m. that she had received a scam call purporting to be from the IRS. She was told that if she failed to follow directions, she would be subject to several lawsuits. When she called a number she was given, it was out of service.
- [Hadley](#): Police are warning Hadley residents to be cautious about receiving phone calls in which the police number appears as the caller. The scammers are demanding money to aid an on-going investigation.

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

- [Marblehead](#): At 12:48 p.m., a woman reported receiving several IRS scam calls in the past few days.
- [Hotline email](#): Consumer's credit card was compromised. However, bank won't disclose where the card was compromised. Shouldn't consumers have this right?

Thursday, June 4, 2015

- [Salem](#): At 9:18 p.m., phone scam reported on Laurent Road. Someone claiming to be from the IRS called a woman. She did not provide any personal information, but officers advised her to contact her bank and credit card companies to set-up security features with them

Friday, June 5, 2015

- [Acton](#): Police responded to Squirrel Hill Road for a report of a possible scam.
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer's computer was shut off by a "mysterious person" who demanded money to turn it back on. The consumer has no details on the person

Sunday, June 7, 2015

- [Hingham](#): A 91-year-old Hingham man lost nearly \$40,000 after falling victim to a lottery scam, police said.
- [Natick](#): A man lost \$1800, after falling victim to a "TV flash sale," in which a UPS driver contacted him to sell him a discounted TV.

Monday, June 8, 2015

- [Hotline email](#): Home owner claim was approved after 3 months. Consumer was told the cheque would be mailed to him. The cheque was due to arrive in 7-10 days, but the cheque never arrived. The consumer called back to inform the person that the payment never came, he was then told to wait a few more days, but the cheque never arrived, this happened a few more times. The consumer believes this is a delayed tactic & fraud. Multiple calls have had no result, but the claim is needed as it was made in February & damage took place in December. The claim number is 2012167
- [Hotline email](#): consumer received a letter from this company in someone else's name regarding a dispute for credit that was opened. Consumer believes this is fraud. Consumer sent an email to this company, but after the fact realized the email address had a red block on http. Is this a legitimate site?

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

- [Hotline email](#): Consumer purchased a pre-owned 2012 Volkswagen. The manager claimed the car was not in any accidents, but week after purchasing the car the consumer noticed that paintwork was done in various areas around the car. Noticeably, the passenger door is a different shade from the rest of the car. Additionally, the car has body work done to it. If these details were disclosed before the purchase, we would have not bought it. Is this fraudulent?



Do you have a scam to report? Call our Consumer Hotline at **617-973-8787** or [e-mail us](#).

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

- [Damariscotta](#): A phone scam was reported on Main Street.

Friday, June 12, 2015

- [Hotline call](#): There was a surcharge on consumer credit card.
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer received calls from IRS to give final notice before they are sued, scammers then recommended calling back

Monday, June 15, 2015

- [Reading](#): At 11:14 a.m., Reading Police said two people came into the lobby reporting credit card fraud scam by telephone.

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

- [Hotline call](#): Consumer reported a sales person walking door-to-door selling a discount ever source package. The invoice you get after you sign up is an invoice from Spark Energy
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer was concerned that their identity was stolen. They had already froze their credit, contacting the FTC and their bank, and made a police report. They believed they knew the scammer, but could not prove it.
- [Hotline email](#): Consumer purchased sub-standard product from a fraudulent company. The company was misleading in what they advertised. Consumer received credit for the item but the company will not post her review, which was written in a “fair” and “unbiased” way. She hopes the company will post her review.
- [Hotline email](#): Consumer purchased a time share in Mexico in 2000, which was paid in full. The original timeshare went bankrupt, and ownership has changed multiple times since. The resorts structure has changed, transitioning from a non-inclusive to an inclusive resort. A collection company contacted the owner stating that they owed maintenance & late charge fees. How can they stop this fraud & harassment?

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

- [Marblehead](#): At 10:16 a.m., a caller reported receiving a scam phone call in which she was told she'd won \$600,000.
- [Hotline call](#): A woman who owned a pet store got a call from someone pretending to be NSTAR and claiming that her electricity would be shut off if she didn't pay money through western union. Their number was 8669785981
- [Hotline email](#): Consumer called very concerned because he/she have been receiving calls that are from “marketing & identity fraud persons.” The consumer has also been receiving unwanted mail like credit card offers etc. He/she wants to know how to stay protected from identity fraud.

Thursday, June 18, 2015

- [West Bridgewater](#): West Bridgewater police dept. are warning residents to be on the lookout for IRS Scams. The scammer called to inform consumer they were going to be audited.

Friday, June 19, 2015

- [Hotline call](#): A man did a presentation on social security, but his information was incorrect. The caller thinks it's a fraud.
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer got a call from a “Microsoft” representative, saying he would take him through how to fix his computer.
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer received a call on their answering machine from the IRS, posing a legal threat.
- [Worcester](#): A mass. Man has been sentenced to one year in prison for creating a fraudulent uniform manufacturing company that conducted business in Afghanistan and defrauded the U.S. gov. out of more than \$150,000



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- [Lawrence](#): 5 individuals were arrested on Thursday (6/18) as a part of a major investigation and crackdown on insurance fraud in the city. One criminal filed a false insurance claim with Metlife, but investigators found the evidence to be inconsistent.

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

- [NorthHampton](#): 2 residents of NorthHampton are facing charges from fraudulently procuring narcotics from pharmacies.

Thursday, June 25, 2015

- [Melrose](#): Melrose Police Dept. has received multiple reports about the IRS scams, which are carried out by phone or mail.
- [Wilbraham](#): Wilbraham Police Dept. is warning residents to be aware of scammers calling residents to request donations to help pay for advertisement for the Police dept.

Monday, June 29, 2015

- [Cape Cod](#): Scammers claim they are soliciting funds for local police associations.
- [Hotline](#): Woman called because she feared she gave her information to an online scammer. The website www.mydriverlicense.org took her social security information and other personal details but provided no service in exchange.
- [Hotline call](#): Employee at car dealership wanted to report unfair business practices.
- [Hotline call](#): Consumer called because she was uncertain if the telephone call she received was a scam. The person called & claimed it was a solar company, but had not details concerning the company.
- [Georgetown](#): Georgetown police informs that scammers are calling persons as a “representative” from National grid or the Georgetown municipal light department, to demand money or their power will be shut off.

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

- [Hotline call](#): Woman called to report a phone scam wanted to be put on the do not call list
- [Malden](#): Police warns of increasing numbers of phone calls from scammers demanding money in exchange for releasing their relatives from hostage.

