



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



March - 2010  
Volume 4, Issue 1

## Crime Prevention Insider

### Beware of Ongoing and Current Internet Scams

March - 2010

- Crime Prevention Unit  
805-781-4547
- Neighborhood/  
Business Watch  
805-781-4483
- Rural Crime  
Ranch/Farm  
Watch  
805-781-4578

Ctrl -Click on the  
SLO  
County Sheriff's  
Website Link below for  
more  
Information  
<http://www.slosheriff.org>



**Phishing or Spoofing:** (as in "fishing for information" and "hooking" victims) is a scam where Internet fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity. Current scams include phony e-mails which claim to come from the IRS and which lure the victims into the scam. Do not click on links that you receive in your e-mail; you may be visiting a fraudulent site and providing personal information that will end up with the "scammers"! Notify your Internet Service Provider if you encounter a suspicious e-mail.

**Nigerian "419" Advance Fee Fraud (AFF):** The perpetrators of AFF, known internationally as "4-1-9" after the section of the Nigerian penal code which addresses fraud schemes, are often very creative and innovative. The Nigerian Advance Fee Scam has been around for quite awhile, but despite many warnings, continues to draw in many victims. In fact, the [Financial](#) Crimes Division of the Secret Service receives approximately 100 telephone calls from victims/potential

victims and 300-500 pieces of related correspondence per day about this scam! Generally, the Nigerian 419 scammer claims to be the relative of some high profile deceased/arrested political figure. The scammer claims this relative has hoarded millions of dollars in cash and is now seeking someone to help transfer the money, in exchange for a hefty percentage of the profits. Sound too good to be true? It is.

**Shopper-Needed Check Fraud Scam:** The Shopper-Needed Scam sends the "new hire" a check for a few hundred dollars, instructing them to cash the check and take their portion, then forward on the remaining funds to the "employer." Of course, the check is bogus, it will bounce eventually, and you, the victim, will be liable for the funds you spent from the check, plus the amount you forwarded on, and any service fees or fines that result.

**If you have been victimized, contact your local law enforcement, followed by filing a complaint with the FBI's Internet Fraud Complaint Center at: <http://ic3.gov>**



### Tips On How to Protect Yourself On-Line

- If you receive an unsolicited e-mail that requests personal, financial, or identity information, exercise extreme caution.
- When updating your personal information with your bank or credit card company, type in their website address, do not click on a link in an e-mail you have received.
- When making a purchase, most companies will have you log into a secure site. Look for the lock at the bottom of your browser, and "https" in front of the website address.

**If you receive an offer that "sounds too good to be true," it most likely is a scam.**

Visit: <http://www.consumerfraudreporting.org> for more information regarding scams and how to report them.



**Visit San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Facebook Page  
Become a Fan**

**Keep informed about the Department's upcoming events and current crime trends.**

Visit: <http://www.facebook.com> & search for San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department

**Ctrl-Click on any of the links in the Newsletter for more information.**

# CRIME PREVENTION INSIDER page 2

## **Better Business Bureau Alerts Consumers Regarding U.S. Census Workers**

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

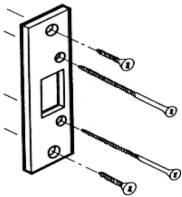
For more advice on avoiding Identity Theft and Fraud, Ctrl-Click on the BBB website link below:

<http://www.bbb.org>

### **For Exterior Doors: Single Cylinder Deadbolt**



### **4" Strike Plate 3" Screws**



### **Secondary Window Security: Thumb Screw Lock**



## **How Safe is Your Home or Business ?**

Springtime is just around the corner, and often we think about doing our "Spring Cleaning" after being somewhat shut in for the winter. This year why not also do a Security Check-up? The SLO Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit would be happy to assist with a FREE Home, Ranch, or Commercial Security Survey. This survey consists of a Crime Prevention Specialist taking about one hour of your time to do a basic walk-through of your home or business to see if there are vulnerable areas that may need some added security. The appointment time is made at your convenience. You are not required to comply with the suggestions we offer, but you may find the

recommendations helpful. Now is the time to open up those doors and windows and let the fresh air in, but don't allow intruders to join the breezes! Be sure to lock up doors and windows, even when you are just doing a quick errand. Most burglars simply enter homes through an unlocked door or window. This is also a great time to get together with neighbors or adjacent business owners and form or have an update Neighborhood, Ranch, or Business Watch meeting. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit and we will provide crime prevention materials, and be happy to facilitate your meeting. For Neighborhood, Ranch/Farm, Business Security Surveys, or Watch Meetings:

**Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 781-4547.**

## **Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol**

Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol (SAVP) is a team of citizens who enhance vital crime prevention services through proactive law enforcement principles. Members of SAVP take no enforcement action, do not carry weapons, nor make arrests. SAVP is designed for the citizen who has an interest in helping law enforcement and the community.

## **Sheriff's Citizen Academy**

The Sheriff's Citizen Academy (SCA) provides community members with an inside look at the Sheriff's Department and all facets of law enforcement. Participants will tour the Jail, Court Services, Dispatch/911 Center, and the Crime Lab. Generally SCA spans over 10 weeks. **The next Academy is set to begin September of 2010.**

***For further information about SAVP or SCA contact  
Marsha Mann at the Crime Prevention Unit  
805-781-4483***

## **Mounted Posse**

One of the oldest auxiliary units is the Sheriff's Posse. Dating back to the 1940's, the unit consists of volunteers on horseback who represent the Sheriff's Department in parades, perform searches, and provide event security. Each of the members is required to provide and maintain their own horse and equipment.

The Posse is divided into two teams. These teams include the Search and Rescue Team and the Ceremonial Team.

***If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information regarding the Sheriff's Posse, contact: Deputy Ed Bryant – 805-434-4290***



## Rural Crime Prevention

Trespassing can create major problems for landowners in rural areas. Whether it is by opening or damaging fences, entering lands under cultivation, or even refusing to leave property when asked, there is always an underlying fear of liability or damage to property. If you discover trespassers on your property:

**IMMEDIATELY call the Sheriff's Department at 781-4550.**

1. Advise the dispatcher about a trespassing in progress.
2. Provide descriptive information about vehicle/persons.
3. Keep the suspect(s) under observation, if safe or possible, so that you can provide updated information to the Sheriff's Dispatcher and responding Deputies.
4. Afterwards, call the Rural Crime Prevention Specialist for a Rural Crime Alert Ticket booklet. For further information on this program, call 805-781-4578.

**Confronting Trespassers is NOT Recommended**

*For further information regarding OAN or rural crime issues, please contact our Rural Crime Specialist, Brandy Swain (805)781-4578*

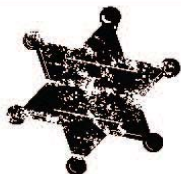


# HOW TO SPOIL A CRIMINAL'S DAY

NO.  
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**Post signs to prevent  
trespassing –**

assistance provided by the SLO County  
Sheriff's Department.



**SLO County Sheriff's  
Advisory Council**

[www.slosheriff.org](http://www.slosheriff.org)