



JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICE ALERT

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

The Johnston Police Department wants to alert residents of a telephone scam that has been occurring within our community. Since December, three (3) cases have been formally reported to the police department by Johnston residents who have received a call at their home from someone impersonating themselves as an immediate relative or someone who is calling on their behalf. The caller then goes on to describe a fabricated incident involving some unfortunate circumstance that the victims loved one was involved in that requires the victim to immediately wire money to a designated location on behalf of their family member.

The callers have been primarily targeting senior citizens and impersonating grandchildren or other relatives. The callers will usually have some personal knowledge of the victim and their family and will often refer to the victim and their relative by name during the described conversation. In all three of the Johnston cases the victims were directed to wire the requested money through Western Union to an address location in Peru.

The Johnston Police Department encourages residents to be very skeptical of any unsolicited phone calls they receive where they are asked to send money or provide any financial information or assistance until they have verified the request with another source who they know and trust.

Anyone having questions or additional information regarding the described activity can contact Lt. Lynn Aswegan at 515-278-2345.