



Newport Police Department

*169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365*

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

02/21/2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Incident: Phone Scam, Theft

Location: Newport, Oregon

Date/Time: February 17 to 20, 2017

Details: On February 21, 2017, Newport Police Officers began receiving calls about a potential phone scam. Victims were reporting that, during the Presidents' Day holiday weekend, they had received calls from Central Lincoln PUD claiming they were late on paying their bill. The caller stated their power would be turned off if they did not pay immediately. The caller told victims they were associated with Central Lincoln PUD, and that a power crew had been dispatched to the victim's home or business to shut off the power. The caller acted as if he were communicating with a crew in the background, and pretended he was trying to help the victims keep their power on. The caller instructed the victims buy a pre-paid credit card, and then recite that credit card number to him over the phone.

Victims reported the number listed on their caller ID's showed a number associated with Central Lincoln PUD. These calls occurred after the PUD business office was closed, making it impossible for the victims to contact PUD by phone to determine if there was a true problem with their bill.

Newport Police Officers contacted Central Lincoln PUD, and learned there had been at least 10 incidents of this phone scam reported over the long holiday weekend. Central Lincoln PUD advises its customers that they will never call a customer after hours or on the weekends. Also, they will never call to threaten that power will be turned off.

If you receive such a call, immediately report it to your local law enforcement agency. The Newport Police Tip line is available at 541-574-5466, or Text-a-Tip at 541-270-1856.

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Information Released By: Sgt. Haynes, 541-574-3348