

Crime Prevention News

To Enhance The Safety of University of Iowa Faculty, Staff, and Students

Common Internet Scams and Hoaxes



Citizen's Police Academy
We are currently taking applications for this year's Citizen's Police Academy!



Email Scams Are Increasing

The illustration above is a just hoax, don't be alarmed. It is meant to be an

example of how much misinformation is out there. I receive email alerts on almost a daily basis on new internet scams. This edition of *The Crime Prevention News* will cover some of the newest trends in internet scams and hoaxes. The newest virus circulating is the UPS/Fed Ex Delivery Failure. A potential victim would receive an email along with an attached invoice they can open, print and use to claim a package that they were unable to deliver on such-and-such a date. Unfortunately for the many that did fall for it, when they opened that attached file they actually were installing a virus on their computer.

Delivery service companies will never email you about a missed delivery, they'll leave a delivery slip if no one is there to accept the package. Snopes confirms that it is real. snopes.com: UPS/FedEx/DHL Delivery Failure With the holiday season upon us, scams that launch malicious viruses could be a problem, especially seeing that many good-willed individuals express their generosity by giving to those less fortunate. As such, the winter months also present the opportunity for scam artists to take advantage of the kindness and compassion of others. So when giving this holiday season, remember to use your head, as well as your heart.

Charity Scam Warning Signs: Look-alike charities. Watch out for charities with similar names to well-known organizations. Some scam artists try to trick people by using names that make them appear to be the same as or comparable to valid charities. **Contribution collectors.** Stay cautious of charities that offer to send a representative to collect donations. **Email Scams.** Be skeptical of emails seeking charitable contributions. Many unsolicited messages received through email are fraudulent. **Promised prizes.** Be cautious of guaranteed sweepstakes winnings in exchange for your contribution. **For more information go to: Charity Navigator: www.charitynavigator.org**



2009-2010 Citizen's Police Academy

Hosted by the University of Iowa Police, The Iowa City Police, Coralville Police, and the Johnson County Sheriff Department. Tuesday nights 6:30-9:30 from Jan. 19th, 2010 through March 30th, 2010 Application forms can be picked up at any of the Hosting Police/Sheriff Departments. Application deadline is Jan. 8th, 2010 at 5:00 pm



Be careful when shopping online

Shop at websites of companies or stores that you already know of or have been recommended to; are usually safe and low risk ones.

CRIME PREVENTION NEWS



Email Scams

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Email scams come in many forms. Copied below are two example emails to be aware of that have been received here at the University of Iowa. **Example 1:** *Hi, How are you today, sorry I didn't inform you about my traveling to England for a Seminar, I need a favor from you as soon as you receive this message, I misplaced my wallet where I kept my money and other valuable things on my way to the hotel, I need your assistance with an urgent loan of \$2,200 to sort-out my hotel bills and get myself back home. I will appreciate whatever you can provide to help me; I'll pay you back as soon as I returned home. So please kindly let me know if you can help me? So I can send you details to transfer the loan as soon as possible. Waiting to read back from you.* **Example 2:** *Your mailbox has exceeded the storage limit set by your administrator. You may not be able to send or receive new mail until your mailbox size is increased by our helpdesk administrator. To increase your storage limit: Click Here <<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s>>*

You will continue to receive this warning message periodically if your inbox size continues to exceed its size limit.

Shopping Online

Always read **any description of the goods for sale carefully**, checking that they meet the specifications that you're looking for.

Once you have decided on an item to purchase - check to see if it is the actual amount you'll pay. The important things here

include; is the price for the number of items you want to purchase, or just a discount price for bulk orders and does the ticket price include all the relevant taxes.

Most online shopping orders need to have a delivery charge added to them. How does this affect the price you pay? Will you be able to specify a time for the delivery, this could be important if there's no one home to take the delivery. **What is the return policy and refund procedure** for the online store, in the event of you're not being satisfied with the goods?

Before you click finalize and pay for the order - double check that everything is correct. When you buy online you might be offered several payment options. Under Federal Law, in the event of a dispute with the seller, your payment will be protected only if you use a credit card.

Never simply send your bank/finance details by email, even if they seem to have been requested from a company you've previously done business with.

Before paying for the goods make sure that you are using a secure web site and that the seller has a secure payment system. Look for web sites starting https and/ or a padlock icon in the lower right-hand of your screen.

When the transaction has gone through; print the purchase order.

The University of Iowa ITS Help Desk has an excellent website with important information to protect yourself from phishing. There are a number of links with other web resources available from their site. Please "cut and Paste" the url below to your web browser address bar to go to their web site: <http://helpdesk.its.uiowa.edu/security/phishing.htm>

Safety Tip:

Lock your residence, room, or office whenever you're gone. and always ask "who is it" when someone knocks on your door before opening it.



Winter Safety Tip for Pets.

More dogs and cats are lost in the winter than any other time of year, winds and blowing snow cause pets to lose their scent trail and become disoriented. Make sure your pet wears an ID tag at all times. Remember, the safest place for your pet during the winter is inside with you!

Iowa City Animal Services (319) 356-5295

www.uiowa.edu/~pubsfty

Check out our web site for crime alerts, crime prevention and departmental information.

www.uiowa.edu/~pubsfty



Important Phone Numbers

**Student Health: 335-8370
UIHC Emergency Room: 356-2547
UI Counseling: 335-7294
RVAP: 335-6000
UI Threat Assessment: 384-2787 - 384-2955**

**→ UI Police ←
(319) 335-5022
Emergency 911**

"To Serve and Protect"

The University of Iowa Police
Present

Project UV

Call 335-5043 to arrange for an appointment.



Protect your textbooks and valuables!



**It's FREE
It's fast and
easy as 1 - 2 - 3**