

## Door-to-Door Fraud & Scams

Senior citizens, due to the fact that they are home during the day are the number one target of door to door scammers. Legitimate door-to-door marketing dropped off years ago from its' peak in the 1950's & 1960's. This was driving by the low sales success rate and the high cost of bringing the salesman to the customer. Now companies use local TV, radio and newspapers to reach their market audiences. So be very cautious when dealing with any person who comes to your door because it's very hard to tell who is legitimate and who is there to steal your money.

Recently there have been reports of imposters who go door-to-door in our neighborhoods falsely identifying themselves as working for particular companies. Some citizens have been tricked into believing imposters were utility workers based upon the imposter's use of an orange vest, hard hat, or other similar clothing. If someone knocks on your door, unsolicited, and claims to be from a utility company, County operations, City operations, or any other agency or company for that matter, insist on seeing their company photo identification. If you have any doubt you should do the following:

- Write down their name & title
- Look the company's number up in your phone book
- Call the company directly and verify the person's identity

Never let someone unknown to you into your home – no matter what they say they are there to inspect or do – unless you have verified their identity and the purpose for the visit directly with their company.

If you have experienced one of these imposters knocking on your door, be sure to call the Police Non-Emergency Dispatch Number at (503) 629-0111 to report the incident immediately. Try to give as specific a physical description as possible of the person and the details of what they said to you. The assistance of alert and active citizens greatly improves the ability of police officers to catch these fraudulent imposters.