



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

7/26/2012

ADVISORY

1200 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST
415-558-3403

**BEWARE of Scams Using the Name of
the San Francisco Fire Department**

Concerned residents and business owners have contacted the San Francisco Fire Department questioning the legitimacy of recent contact made by unknown individuals, one via email and one via telephone, making connections between their activity and the SFFD.

A local business owner received a telephone call from a male stating that he was raising money to fund publication of a San Francisco Fire Department yearbook. When the merchant agreed to a \$195 contribution, the caller sent a UPS package with a \$195 COD fee and no return address. Luckily, before the package arrived, the merchant called the Fire Department to verify the legitimacy of the fundraising claim. The merchant refused the package.

A resident received an email claiming that on behalf of San Francisco Fire Department he had been issued a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card free of charge. It then instructed him to follow a website to claim his prize. There was a very short window of time for him to be able to complete the transaction.

“The San Francisco Fire Department does not engage in any form of solicitation”, said Mindy Talmadge, spokesperson for the Department. “There have been a number of scams reported over the years so I want to be very clear about this. We do not reach out to the community, in person, by email, U.S. mail or by phone, to raise money for anything.”

Some of the claims may sound legitimate as scams related to the Fire Service tend to tug at ones heartstrings so, if in doubt, and certainly before you donate or give out any personal information, call the San Francisco Fire Department at (415)558-3403.

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