

BEWARE OF PHONY FIRE INSPECTORS!

Fraudulent Fire Inspectors:



- ⊗ May dress in dark blue pants and t-shirts that look like the ones firefighters wear or state that they have been sent to conduct an inspection by the Fire Department or the Fire Marshal.
- ⊗ Drive vehicles **not identified** as City of Escondido or Escondido Fire Department vehicles.
- ⊗ May mention **names of actual Fire Department inspectors** in order to appear more legitimate.
- ⊗ May show up unexpectedly and say that they were sent by the Fire Department to **complete routine servicing of fire extinguishing or suppression equipment**.
- ⊗ May **insist on installing equipment and/or signage** that is actually not required or charging for servicing fire extinguishers without performing the work properly.
- ⊗ May **request immediate payment** or send an invoice to be returned with payment to a post office box.
- ⊗ May **ask you to sign an "inspection form" but don't leave a copy of it**, saying that it will be mailed. Some time later, you could receive an invoice for an over-priced inspection in the mail with your signature cut and pasted in.

Official Escondido Fire Dept. Representatives:



- ⇒ Always wear dark blue uniforms **with official badges and shoulder patches**.
- ⇒ Always drive **official city vehicles bearing the Seal of the City of Escondido**.
- ⇒ Always carry official **City of Escondido identification cards that include the word "Fire"** on the front.
- ⇒ Never hesitate to **show identification** if asked.
- ⇒ **Never use private companies** to conduct business inspections.
- ⇒ **Provide inspection services only** and are not authorized to repair or replace fire equipment or recommend companies that service or sell equipment.
- ⇒ **Leave a copy of the inspection form** with the business following an Escondido Fire Department inspection.
- ⇒ Provide or mail **invoices bearing the City of Escondido name and address, 1163 N. Centre City Parkway**.
- ⇒ **Do NOT accept cash** on site at the businesses and accept checks or money orders only if made payable to the City of Escondido.

DON'T BE VICTIMIZED!

- Ask to see identification.
- Call the Escondido Fire Department Administration Office if you wish to confirm whether or not an inspector is authentic at 760-839-5400 during regular business hours or Police Non-emergency at 760-839-4722 after hours.
- Before agreeing to have your fire equipment serviced, check with several approved fire extinguisher service companies to get competitive bids.
- If approached by a service person, make sure that your extinguishers are due to be serviced; the tag indicates when it was last done and the service period is for one year.
- Make sure that the person installing or repairing equipment has a business license for the City of Escondido and is properly certified.



Anyone who offers – or demands – to inspect your business but does not meet the above standards should not be confronted. Instead, call the Escondido Police Department at 760-839- 4722 immediately.

If you can help identify a person or persons who may be fraudulently representing the Fire Department, please contact the Police Department directly or make an anonymous call to the Police Department's "Anonymous Tip Line" at (760) 743-TIPS (8477).