



PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE COMMUNITY AWARENESS BULLETIN

CAB 001-17

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FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT SCAM

Businesses in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Michigan have fallen victim to a scam involving the inspection of fire safety equipment. Typically, the suspect enters an establishment and falsely claims to be a representative of a fire prevention entity and requests to inspect fire extinguishers and alarms. After completing the "inspection," the suspect demands cash payment.

- On 04/19/2017, a suspect entered two Pennsylvania businesses and portrayed himself as a representative of a fire prevention company. He informed the employees that he was there to inspect the fire extinguishers. Upon completing the inspection, he provided a receipt for \$198.45 and requested a cash only payment. During the investigation, it was confirmed that the fire prevention company does not exist.

In 2012, similar incidents occurred at numerous locations across the Commonwealth and in several other states including New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Be familiar with the inspection requirements for your municipality.
- Educate employees to minimize their susceptibility to these types of scams.
- Request credentials from service providers to confirm their business/agency affiliation.
- Report suspicious activity to the law enforcement agency in your area.

If an individual enters your establishment, requests to inspect your fire extinguishers, and does not provide proper identification, refuse the inspection or if you become the victim of this scam, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.