**Beware of Fraudulent Fire Inspectors**

Recently the Santa Fe Springs Department of Fire-Rescue has received reports regarding individuals who are fraudulently representing the fire department and conducting “quarterly fire inspections” or “routine” to city businesses. The businesses are then receiving an invoice by an aggressive collection effort.

**Fraudulent fire inspectors may:**
1. Drive up in an unmarked vehicle, dress in dark blue pants and t-shirt in an attempt to look like a fire department employee.
2. State they have been sent to conduct an inspection of your business by the Fire Department or Fire Marshal. The Santa Fe Springs Department of Fire-Rescue does not use private companies to inspect City businesses.
3. State they were sent by the Fire Department to complete routine servicing of fire extinguishing or suppression equipment. They may insist on installing equipment and/or signage that is actually not required. Fire Department employees provide inspection services only and are not authorized to repair or replace equipment or recommend companies that service or sell equipment. A legitimate fire equipment servicing technician should provide a California State Fire Marshal picture ID and/or a C-16 or C-10 license issued by the California State Contractor’s License Board.
4. Request an immediate payment for cash, or in some cases, send an invoice to be returned to a post office box. Fire Department inspectors will not accept cash or checks at your business.
5. Ask you to sign an inspection form but not leave a copy of it, saying 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 on it.

**Santa Fe Springs Fire-Rescue Inspectors will:**
1. Wear dark blue uniforms with badges and shoulder patches and drive official city vehicles, most typically a fire engine. Santa Fe Springs Fire-Rescue employees carry official city identification cards that include a picture, inspector’s name, and the words “City of Santa Fe Springs”.
2. Fire Prevention and Environmental Division inspectors wear a polo shirt with the City of Santa Fe Springs Fire-Rescue name embroidered on their shirt, a badge on their belt, and will carry a city identification card.

**If you are questioning whether or not the inspector represents the City, please call Fire-Rescue Headquarters at 562-944-9713. Remember, you can always refuse service and request a Santa Fe Springs Fire-Rescue Inspector visit your business. We will gladly advise you of any needed service, please call the number above for any assistance or questions. – Fire Chief Michael Crook**