

# Scammers targeting Oklahoma insurance professionals

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Published: June 24, 2009

Oklahoma insurance agents should be aware of potential scammers posing as insurance regulators who could obtain personal information, the state Insurance Commission Department said Tuesday.

At least one local insurance provider has received a phone call requesting confidential information from someone claiming to be with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, said Marc Young, assistant insurance commissioner.

The Insurance Department never requests personal information over the phone, Young said. Official requests only will be made in writing.

The method behind this particular scam is what makes it unusual, he said.

"Insurance fraud is something we see regularly, but what is atypical about this is individuals posing as government officials," Young said.

Similar scams have taken place recently in California and Nevada, he said. The fraudulent telephone calls came from individuals claiming that an agent's license would be suspended unless he or she sent personal information — Social Security number, credit card numbers and date of birth.

Insurance agents are at risk for scams like these because their licenses are available as public record, Young said.

Anything that seems suspicious — even from a source that seems well-informed — should be questioned, he said.

Source: <http://newsok.com/scammers-targeting-oklahoma-insurance-professionals/article/3380235>