



Florida Crime Prevention Association News Release

FloridaCrimePrevention.org



Media Relations Officer
Stacey Payne
spayne@sheriffleefl.org

All media inquiries should be directed to PIO Stacey Payne at 239-477-1481

It's Heating Up Out There and So Are the Scams

Beware of a phone call or a knock at the door with a sales pitch similar to, “We are in your area and we are giving “free” inspections on your air conditioning unit”, or “according to your warranty it is time for the annual inspection of your roof”.

As the temperatures heat up and the rainy season approaches we know to expect an increase in air conditioning and roofing scams. These scammers attempt to convince their unsuspecting victims that they are the original company who placed the roof on the victim’s residence, and in order to maintain the homeowners’ warranty, they must inspect it immediately. Once the inspection is complete, the con-artist submits an estimate to the homeowner for thousands of dollars of unnecessary repair work. The Florida Crime Prevention Association recommends you *always* check with the company who issued the original warranty to determine what costs are covered, whether or not a yearly inspection is required and who to contact for inspections and repairs.

In addition, with summer fast approaching, residents should be wary of “contractors” who *happen* to be in your neighborhood offering “free” air conditioning inspections, bargains or immediate service. These “free” inspections can end up costing the homeowner thousands of dollars due to inflated prices, sloppy workmanship that requires correction, and/or a voided warranty.

The Florida Crime Prevention Association advises consumers to thoroughly check out contractors:

- Get at least three bids before choosing your service company.
- Don’t do business with an unlicensed contractor.
- Get a reliability report from the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org.
- Insist on a written contract detailing the work to be done.

You can be certain that if you do the required “home” work on the front end you will successfully achieve an A+ in satisfaction.