



TELE-SPOOF AND SWATTING

Do not trust your caller ID's. There are several websites including 'Telespoof.com' and 'Spoofcard.com' in which callers can use the internet and make up any caller identification information they want to contact others. In some cases this includes 9-1-1. Several agencies around the country have been dealing with a new prank, called "swatting". This prank involves using internet services to make up a name, address, and phone number and then contact a 9-1-1 center saying there is some type of crime in progress (burglary, murder, etc.). Law enforcement responds in a heightened response only to discover unsuspecting residents. These calls appear to come from the residence in question. It may take some time to realize it was a prank call, and it could put law enforcement and citizens in a dangerous situation.

Besides "swatting" criminals also utilize tele-spoof scenarios for scams. They call you and pretend to be from a bank, attorney's office, government office, or anyone else they can think of. In this situation, it is best to hang up the phone (make sure you get a dial tone) and call the business back on a number you verified (look it up in the phone book or other resource).

Need more information? Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 772-871-5303.
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
"Raising the Standard...Through Community Partnerships"