

# NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **Fire Inspection Fraud**

The City of Newport Beach wants to be certain that business owners are aware of unsolicited inspection regarding fire protection systems and areas related to fire safety. Businesses in other cities have been victimized by individuals claiming to have been sent by the "Fire Marshal" or "Fire Department" or "Fire Inspector" to conduct inspections.

Fire inspections are conducted by Newport Beach Fire Department personnel who wear badges and carry department identification cards. If you have reason to doubt that the inspection being conducted is not by a City employee, please do not hesitate to call us at 949-644-3106 to confirm. A Firefighter or Fire Inspector will understand and not have any issues with business owners requesting proper identification.

#### **Business Owner Rights**

- Ask to see proper identification or state licensing credentials for fire protection services. Refuse fire protection services if proper identification cannot be provided.
- Know exactly what work is to be performed and receive a detailed estimate before consenting to services.
- Retain all parts that were replaced.
- Receive and retain an invoice.
- Do not pay cash.
- Contact Fire or Police for assistance.

#### Protect your Business from Fraud

- Never sign a blank invoice.
- Mark fire extinguishers and record the date of previous service, the number and size extinguishers, and the purchase dates.
- Record the dates of the fire sprinkler, fire alarm, and special fire protection system installations and service.
- Be cautious of service companies that show up without being contacted.
- Educate employees on business owner rights and fraudulent practices.

### REMEMBER!

You can always refuse service and request, at any time, a Newport Beach Fire Department Inspector visit your business. We will gladly advise you of any needed service. We also maintain a partial list of qualified approved vendors.

If you have any questions, call the Newport Beach Fire Department at 949-644-3106 or visit our website for more tips at <u>www.nbfd.net</u>.

Newport Beach Fire Department www.nbfd.net

> Fire Business 949-644-3104 Fire or Medical Emergency 9-1-1