

**FROM THE OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KENNETH R. BUCK**



# Fraud Alert!

## TRICK-OR-TREATERS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONES KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR



Ghosts and goblins may not be the only ones showing up on your doorstep this month. Travelers, or door-to-door con artists, show up at your home selling items or offering to do repair work for you (with leftover materials from a “previous” job) at an unbelievably low price. No matter how tempted you are to take them up on their offer, remember one thing: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

### **TYPES OF DOOR TO DOOR SCAMS:**

- They were passing by and noticed that you need repair work on your roof or fence; they offer to make those repairs for you the same day for a low price.
- They are conducting free home inspections in your area today for heating/air conditioning systems (and they undoubtedly find something that needs to be repaired immediately).

-They will try to sell you a home security system (or service) by scaring you with stories about recent burglaries in your area.

-They will solicit magazine sales at extremely high prices (usually by making up a story about raising money for college, school or a charity).

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR:**

Travelers use high-pressure sales tactics, but are usually very friendly; however, they may use scare tactics if you waiver in your decision as to whether or not to work with them. They may tell you that if you don't get the repair done that day, you will pay much higher prices to some other company or that you may actually be putting your life at risk by not having the repair done at all. (“Your furnace is leaking, and it must be repaired immediately!”). Travelers often ask for partial payment in advance—beware of this tactic, because many times they will take the payment and do little or no work at all. Your money and the scammers will be gone.

### **HOW TO NOT BECOME A VICTIM:**

- Beware of all door-to-door solicitors
- Get everything in writing
- Check out the business's credentials
- Check with the Mountain States BBB
- Never rely on verbal promises
- Don't pay in advance
- Don't fall for the line: offer is good today only
- Get written bids from other companies
- Ask for written literature, including business cards
- Know that it is ok to not answer the door to a stranger

**Contact your local police agency if you think you are a victim of a crime. To contact the Weld County District Attorney's Office, call (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702.**