



**Weld County
District Attorney's Office
Nineteenth Judicial District**

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Fraud Alert!

SPRING: BIRDS ARE SINGING, THE SUN IS SHINING AND THE TRAVELERS MAY START KNOCKING

Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck would like you to take note of the following information so that you aren't the next victim.

After a long winter, many of us are ready to start working on various projects around the house: fence repair, driveway and sidewalk repair, even yard work.

Please remember, though, that just as Spring brings warmer weather it also brings "Travelers." This group of scam artists show up at your door with leftover products or materials from a "previous" job and offer to do work for you 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.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Travelers usually drive new trucks with out-of-state license plates.

Travelers use high-pressure sales tactics, but are usually very friendly. They try to gain your friendship, and your trust, through their offer to help with your "needed" repair at an unusually low out-of-pocket cost to you.

Travelers 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 say that they have material left over from a previous job and that is why they can offer to do the work for you at such a low price.

Travelers will sometimes insist that they have done work with you before—again trying to establish a friendly relationship with you.

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 any door-to-door contractor.

Don't pay in advance.

Get at least three written bids/second opinions on home projects, and don't always accept the lowest bid.

Check all contractors with your building inspection department and the Mountain States Better Business Bureau at 970-484-1348.

Always insist on a written contract, and do not be pressured into paying more than the contract states.

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.

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