



CCER Committee - September 2026 Community Safety Message

Green Valley Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers (GVSAV)

LOST MONEY TO A SCAM?

They're the worst of the absolute worst: scammers who target people who have already lost money to a scam. If you or someone you know paid a scammer, here's what to know to avoid scammers who pretend to be helpers.

Refund and recovery scammers buy lists of people who've already been scammed, hoping that they can be scammed again. The scammers will contact you, claiming that they'll help you get your money back or

recover the prize or merchandise that you never received. To sound trustworthy, they might say they're with a government agency (like the FTC), a consumer advocacy group, or a law firm - but it's all a lie.

They'll then tell you to pay a "retainer fee", "processing fee", or "administrative charge", or they'll ask you to share your financial information so they can (supposedly) deposit the refund or recovered funds. But if you pay, they'll steal your money... and if you share your information, they will likely steal your identity.

To Avoid These Scams:

- Don't trust someone who contacts you claiming they can recover your lost money for a fee - you'll end up losing more money
- Never pay up front for a refund or for help getting one. Neither government agencies nor legitimate organizations will ever ask for money or financial information in exchange for help getting a refund. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- Always research anyone who contacts you about a refund or help recovering funds lost to a scam. Search online for their name plus words like "complaint", "scam", or "review".
- Never use any phone number or link that they provide to you. Always look up the contact information for the government agency or business on your own.

Watch out for scammers who say they can help you!

HOW TO SPOT AND AVOID RENTAL SCAMS

What are Rental Scams?

- Rental scams occur when a property owner misrepresents themselves, the property in question, or the terms of a rental or lease agreement to obtain money for a fraudulent offer.
- These scams also occur when scammers advertise a rental property that doesn't exist, that they don't own, or that has already been occupied, then they attempt to collect payments or deposits up front.

- Scammers usually create fake websites advertising properties to make them seem legitimate or they may post fake listings on sites such as Craigslist or Facebook.

The Common Signs of Rental Scams:

- The listing is a copy or is vague - rental scammers may copy legitimate listings and replace the contact name for the rental property with their own. They may also include a real estate company logo or may copy the company's branding to make their listing appear legitimate. Watch for listings that appear on rental platforms more than once or whose basic details are vague or missing.
- No lease is available - if there is no lease agreement available or the lease you received is incomplete, these are signs that the rental may be a scam, which makes it easy for the scammer to disappear with your money, leaving you with no legal claim to the property.
- Unverified address - Search the property address online, some listings have addresses that aren't verified or don't exist at all. You may find that the property listed is in foreclosure or that the person listing the property is not actually affiliated with the real estate company.
- The listing agent asks for unusual payment - If the listing agent asks for you to wire money, the listing is most likely a scam. Remember that wiring money is like sending cash, once it has left your account you won't be able to get it back. Legitimate real estate professionals **will not** ask you to send payments by wire transfer, cash, gift cards, or crypto.
- The listing agent requests money before you sign a lease - If the listing agent asks you to send them money before you sign a lease, see the property, or even meet the agent, it is likely a scam. You should meet the agent, see the property, and sign a lease before paying application fees, security deposits, or rent payments.
- The listing agent won't allow you to tour the property - scammers who don't have a legitimate claim to the property, or who are listing a rental that does not exist, will not let you tour the property before you submit payment. They will often make excuses such as the property is still occupied by a

renter, or that the property owner is out of town and unable to provide access. Never send money before taking a tour of the property.

- The rent is suspiciously low - Search online for other rentals in the neighboring area. If the rent on the property listed is far less than other rentals in the area, the listing is likely a scam. If the price seems too good to be true, it is.

Beware of fraudulent rentals and remember to contact local law enforcement if you believe you were scammed!

Always remember this when you receive a solicitation through text, phone, email, or social media – if it sounds strange, don't engage!

Visit our website www.scamsquadsav.org to check for other scams and alerts. You can also contact the GVSAV Scam Squad by calling [520-351-6715](tel:520-351-6715) Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. To report an incident of fraud (money lost to a scam) call 911 or [520-351-4900](tel:520-351-4900). You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GVSAV.

Santa Rita Fire District

FALL PREVENTION MONTH

One out of four older adults fall each year - but less than half tell their doctor. Having one fall doubles your chances of falling again. Each year, more than 319,000 older adults are hospitalized for hip fractures. Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries.

What Can Increase Your Risk?

- Lower body weakness
- Difficulty with walking or balance
- Vision or hearing problems
- Foot pain or improper footwear
- Vitamin D deficiency
- Broken or uneven steps

- Loose rugs, cords, or clutter in walkways
- Poor lighting inside or outside the home
- Prescription or over-the-counter medications that affect alertness, blood pressure, balance, or cause drowsiness

Make Your Home Safer

- Install grab bars near toilets, bathtubs, and showers
- Use non-slip mats inside tubs and showers
- Keep frequently-used items within easy reach
- Remove clutter from hallways, stairways, and walking paths
- Secure or remove loose throw rugs
- Make sure rooms, hallways, entrances, and stairways are well-lit
- Install handrails on both sides of staircases whenever possible
- Keep electrical cords away from all walking areas
- Watch for uneven sidewalks, pavement, curbs, and steps
- Always use handrails
- Make sure exterior entrances and walkways are well-lit

Remember, Falls Are Preventable

- Talk with your healthcare provider about your personal fall risk, especially if you've fallen before
- Ask your healthcare provider to review your medications, including over-the-counter medicine, since some medications cause dizziness, drowsiness, or balance problems
- Always wear supportive, properly-fitting shoes with low heels and non-slip soles

Local Resources

- Contact Valley Assistance Services regarding the SHIM program (Safety and Health In Motion). A nurse from VAS will screen for any medical conditions that can contribute to fall risk and a Fire Corps member will perform a risk assessment of your home. Call [520-625-5966](tel:520-625-5966) for more information.
- Pima Council on Aging Falls Free Pima program offers local fall prevention programs, education, and resources. Call [520-790-7262](tel:520-790-7262) for more information.

- Pima Council on Aging also offers healthy living classes that include balance, strength, flexibility, and healthy aging. Contact PCOA for more information.

"Taking steps to reduce your falling risk can help you stay active, independent, and safe. Address potential fall hazards before an emergency happens."