



NEWS RELEASE

Lakeport Police Department
916 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 263-5491

INTERNET FRAUD ALERT

July 11, 2008

From: Lieutenant Brad Rasmussen

For further information contact Lieutenant Brad Rasmussen or Officer Jim Bell

On July 10, 2008 the Lakeport Police Department (LPD) was contacted by a local citizen who reported being the victim of internet fraud with loses totaling \$8300.00.

In this case the victim received an email offering her an in-home business opportunity. The suspects offered to send the victim checks with a request that she cash them and keep 10% of the funds for her service. The victim cashed \$8300.00 in checks through her bank and forwarded the suspects \$7470.00 before discovering the checks were fraudulent. Since the victim has reported this crime to LPD the suspects have attempted to fraudulently obtain another \$18600.00 from her.

In this case the LPD has been fortunate enough to identify possible suspects from South Carolina and is currently working with an agency from that state in an effort to develop additional evidence. In many cases like this the suspects can not be identified or are operating from outside the country, making it difficult for law enforcement to investigate.

The LPD requests that citizens be aware of internet and telephone frauds scams and not accept or cash checks from unknown persons or give out personal information over the telephone.

**Kevin Burke
Chief of Police**