



# FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Tom Schultz  
Fire Chief

Captain Thanh Nguyen, PIO  
(714) 741-5628  
[thanhn@garden-grove.org](mailto:thanhn@garden-grove.org)

September 23, 2015

## **Garden Grove Fire Department Fraud Prevention Program**

Each year, the Garden Grove Fire Department and others in California require businesses to undergo a fire inspection to ensure the safety of the business and its occupants. The Fire Department has become aware that businesses who are not associated with the Department and not certified and licensed, are representing themselves as members of the Department. These individuals are conducting inspections for a fee, or performing work that is not authorized by the business. It has been reported by businesses and other fire jurisdictions that these individuals use intimidation to gain access into an establishment.

Garden Grove inspectors will always be in uniform with a Garden Grove Fire Department badge, and carrying department identification. Business owners are being warned that the Department will never ask for a fee to be paid at the time of the inspection so do not pay for anything on site. Owners and their representatives always have the right to ask for identification or refuse entry if they question the legitimacy of the company or individual.

The Fire Department has paired up with the Police Department and neighboring jurisdictions, to educate the community, and to go after these individuals that may leave the public exposed to fire dangers.

-more-

Fraud Prevention Program  
2-2-2

“Preying on hard-working citizens in our City and anywhere else is morally wrong, and we will not tolerate it,” says Fire Chief Tom Schultz.

In its campaign to educate the public, the Department is proactively reaching out to businesses with information to avoid falling for these questionable practices that may endanger the public. In addition, the Police Department will be investigating potential fraud cases, and going after these individuals and companies. Owners are requested to contact the Fire Department at (714) 741-5629 if they have questions, or go to [www.gardengrovefire.org](http://www.gardengrovefire.org) to find more information.

###