



Department
of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

John R. Kasich, Governor

**David Goodman, Director
Department of Commerce**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PUBLIC URGED TO VERIFY CREDENTIALS BEFORE LETTING STRANGERS
INTO YOUR HOME.**

Proper Precautions Make a Safe Residence

State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers is reminding the public to verify identification before letting strangers into their home or business, especially if they present themselves unannounced.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, an individual in the Chillicothe area went to a residential apartment, saying he was a state fire inspector, and proceeded to instruct on improvements for fire safety regulations, stating that he would return to re-inspect. Earlier in the year, a man in central Ohio approached businesses as a fire inspector, and asked for cash immediately.

Generally, code inspectors do not go to private homes unless the owner requests it. A state fire inspector will never ask for payment -- Cash or otherwise."

"If an inspector shows up at your home, call the Division of the State Fire Marshal," said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. "Ask the inspector to come back on a different date, and then call us to verify their legitimacy as an official."

The Division of the State Fire Marshal can be reached at (614)-752-8200. The division is always willing to answer questions, including those regarding fire inspections.

For more information, visit www.com.ohio.gov/fire.

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