

## CLUB NEWS – Scam Alert!

From Escapees RV Club

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While this particular scam alert comes from the Polk County District Attorney, similar scams are taking place throughout the nation. Please be cautious and contact a consumer protection agency in your area if you receive suspicious mail like the offer described below.

### SCAM ALERT



LIVINGSTON, June 10, 2009 - It has recently been brought to the attention of the District Attorney's Office that at least one Polk County resident has been the target of a consumer scam conducted via the U.S. Mail. So the citizens of Polk County can be protected from such acts of fraud, what follows is a general outline of how the scheme is presented:

A letter is sent out in a plain white envelope, with no return address and a Canadian post mark. The letterhead reads "Safeco Insurance Company" and gives a fake address in Seattle, Washington. In the body of the letter, the target is informed that he or she has won a "Consumer's Promotional Draw" that has been organized for customers of large retail outlets such as Walmart, Target, etc. The letter goes on to recite that a prize of \$225,000 awaits and gives the names and contact information of a "claim agent" and "senior financial executive", all of whom are located in Canada. Enclosed with the letter is a very authentic-looking check in the amount of \$4987.00, which the letter says is supposed to be used to pay the Canadian taxes on your \$225,000 prize. When you call any of the people in the letter, you are instructed to cash the check and forward the money to them in Canada so they can pay the taxes for you and send you your \$225,000. The problem is this: The check is drawn on a phony account and after it bounces, your bank will hold you responsible for the \$4987.00, plus any additional fees charged by your financial institution.

From all reports, these letters started appearing in people's mailboxes around the beginning of June. So, there could be many more of them out there. Please be aware that this offer is not legitimate, and cashing this check could result in you being held responsible for the funds by your bank. If you receive this letter, do not cash the check. Rather, notify the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-621-0508.

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