

FRAUD ALERT

OIG Information Bulletin No. 1

BEWARE OF “GET RICH QUICK” SCAMS!

It is important that you and your family members be alert when receiving e-mail from foreign sources. The sources identify themselves as Nigerian or some other foreign country government officials. These sources claim to be in possession of large sums of money sitting on deposit at a bank. The e-mail senders claim that in order to move the money they need a U.S. bank account holder. The e-mails promise the person who is willing to assist in moving the money to a U.S. bank, to be compensated extremely well, with several million dollars.

These types of solicitations are part of an ongoing scam. It was originated in Nigeria and recently it has been utilized by individuals in other countries. It is commonly identified as the “Nigerian Scam” also known as “419 Scam”. The number 419 refers to the Nigerian Criminal Code section that deals with fraud. Initially the scammers ask for some information about the victim’s financial information and later follow up with specific instructions. Individuals who are willing to respond can be defrauded out of large sums of money.

Law enforcement agencies have reported a significant increase in the number and variety of these scams. The U.S. Department of Justice warns the public not to respond, send or give money, or disclose account information to anyone sending these types of e-mails. It is believed that the “Nigerian Scam” defrauds victims in the U.S. out of millions of dollars.

If you receive these types of e-mails, you’d be well-advised to not respond.