

From: Attorney General
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:53 AM
To:
Subject: Scam Alert: Bogus Travel Emergency



Consumer Protection Hotline: 1-877-877-9392
Online: www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
SCAM ALERT

A Consumer Protection Alert from Oregon Attorney General John Kroger

Dear ,

Thank you for joining the [Oregon Scam Alert Network](#). Please feel free to forward this email and encourage your family members, friends and colleagues to join the network too. Together we can fight fraud and help protect Oregonians from falling prey to predatory schemes.

BOGUS TRAVEL EMERGENCY

The email describes a travel nightmare: "Help! I've been robbed at gunpoint while visiting London and desperately need your assistance!" No money, no credit cards, no passport or

cell phone - your friend is scared and stranded. What they need you to do is wire them some money quickly. Your instinct is to help your friend. But don't because it's probably a scam.

Fake emergency emails are being sent by scammers posing as a friend or family member. The messages come from cyber-thieves who gather contact information by either hijacking someone's email or social networking account, or by collecting the names of people who are cc'd on mass emails. The scam message may come from an email address that looks a lot like your friend's real one.

Protect yourself from the fake emergency email scam by taking the following precautions:

- Always be skeptical of emails that describe an urgent need for you to wire money - no matter who it appears to be coming from. More often than not, if someone is requesting a money wire, it's a scam.
- If you're suspicious, try to contact your friend to verify the emergency. If it is a scam, encourage them to warn their contacts about the phony email.
- When sending group emails always "bcc:" (blind carbon copy) your recipients. That way their names and email addresses are not visible after the email is sent.
- Protect your email and social networking accounts by using unique passwords that include numbers and capital letters.

Attorney General John Kroger and the Oregon Department of Justice are committed to protecting Oregon's marketplace and helping Oregon consumers. If you or someone you know has fallen victim to a fake emergency email scam, please call the Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 for assistance.

Quick Links

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