



Health and Fire Safety: Bogus Traders and Officials

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HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY: BOGUS TRADERS AND OFFICIALS

The content of this alert is based on information gathered by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). The purpose of sharing this information with the public, law enforcement partners and key stakeholders is to assist in preventing/detecting crime, bringing offenders to justice and increasing awareness of enablers currently being utilised by criminals.

ALERT CONTENT

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has received intelligence which suggests that fraudsters and bogus traders may be posing as council officials or professionals in the fire prevention industry and cold calling or visiting the homes of potential victims.

Citing the Grenfell Tower fire as the reason for their contact, the fraudsters are allegedly offering services such as a free or subsidised safety inspection of a property. The NFIB has also received intelligence that suggests fraudsters may be trying to contact organisations and claiming to offer contracts to provide services or goods to affected persons or organisations.

Whilst the NFIB are currently unaware of any successful attempts made by fraudsters, the public are encouraged to actively report any suspicious approaches by individuals purporting to offer goods or services in relation to health and fire safety to Action Fraud, especially in cases where it is suggested they are making contact as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire.

PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

- **After the Grenfell Tower fire, the response by local authorities in relation to health and fire safety is ongoing. Residents who live in social housing or council properties should contact their local authority in the first instance where they have any concerns if they have not received advice already. Those who reside in privately rented properties should first seek advice from their landlord or agent where they have questions regarding health and fire safety.**
- Always ask for identification before letting anyone you don't know into your property. Council officials who visit a property will carry identification.
- Check credentials, including a permanent business address and landline telephone number. The mobile phone numbers given on business cards are often pay-as-you-go numbers which are virtually impossible to trace.
- Don't sign on the spot – shop around. Get at least three written quotes to make sure you're not being ripped off.
- If in any doubt, ask the person to leave or call the [Citizens Advice](#) consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.
- If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

FEEDBACK

The NFIB needs feedback from our readers to evaluate the quality of our products and to inform our priorities. Please would you complete the following NFIB feedback survey through: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FeedbackSDU>. This should take you no more than 2 minutes to complete. If you have other feedback or additional information that you would prefer to provide by email please send to NFIBfeedback@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk.

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