



NEWS RELEASE - June 4, 2009

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Insurance Producers Warned Not to Give Personal Information to Scam Artists Posing as State Employees

Following a similar advisory issued in California and Nevada, DORA's Insurance Commissioner Marcy Morrison today warned of a scam targeting licensed insurance producers in Colorado.

"Although we have received very few reports, this particular scam has surfaced in Colorado. These scams often travel from state to state, so it's a good time to remind people to safeguard their personal information," Morrison said. "We want to be proactive and give people the information they need to avoid being taken by this type of con artist."

The scam was first reported in California where individuals were allegedly calling licensed insurance agencies and representing themselves as employees of the California Department of Insurance. These individuals, pretending to be CDI employees, requested payment for a penalty fee due to not completing a fictitious form that they said the department sent to the agencies. The same individuals also requested that the insurance agencies provide credit card information over the telephone to make the penalty payment and to avoid cancellation of their license.

State officials in all three states warned all insurance producers that the individuals making the calls are not employees of the state Divisions of Insurance and are attempting to scam insurance agencies for financial gain.

"It is not the policy, practice or procedure for the Colorado Division of Insurance to assess penalties or request credit card information over the telephone. In fact, we do not accept credit cards for fines, surcharges or penalty payments, so if someone is requesting your credit information on our behalf, you can be assured it's a fraudulent request," Morrison stated.

If you receive a telephone call requesting this information, or information such as your bank account or social security number, do not provide the caller with any personal information. Contact your local law enforcement agency.

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DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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