



**THE SURPLUS LINE ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA**

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BULLETIN #1183

RE: Scam Artists Posing as California Department of Insurance (CDI) Employees

Please read the enclosed press release from California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner warning agents and brokers not to give personal or credit card information over the telephone to scam artists posing as CDI employees.

It is not the policy, practice or procedure for the CDI to request credit card information over the telephone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Theodore M. Pierce'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Theodore M. Pierce
Executive Director

TP/pk
Attachment



NEWS: 2009 PRESS RELEASE

For Release: May 29, 2009
Media Calls Only: 916-492-3566

Insurance Commissioner Poizner Warns Agents and Brokers Not to Give Personal Information to Scam Artists Posing as CDI Employees

Insurance Commissioner Poizner today warned California licensed insurance agents and brokers to beware of a scam that has come to the Department's attention.

Individuals have been reportedly calling licensed insurance agencies and representing themselves as employees of the California Department of Insurance. These individuals, pretending to be CDI employees, have requested payment for a penalty fee due to not completing a fictitious form that they purport 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.

Commissioner Poizner warns all agents and brokers that these individuals are not employees of the California Department of Insurance and are attempting to scam insurance agencies for financial gain. It is not the policy, practice or procedure for the California Department of Insurance to request credit card information over the telephone.

If you receive a telephone call requesting this information, do not provide the caller with any personal information including credit card or social security numbers. Contact your local law enforcement agency.

Enforcement officials are actively investigating this scam.

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Please visit the Department of Insurance Web site at www.insurance.ca.gov. Non media inquiries should be directed to the Consumer Hotline at 800.927.HELP. Callers from out of state, please dial 213.897.8921. Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD), please dial 800.482.4833.

If you are a member of the public wishing information, please visit our [Consumer Services](#).