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NEWS RELEASE

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Restaurant owners warned about fire suppression scam

BOISE ID (February 2, 2016) – The Idaho State Fire Marshal’s Office is alerting restaurant owners and employees to a scam occurring across the southern part of the state. Callers are identifying themselves as local fire fighters and instructing restaurants to activate their fire suppression systems.

“Firefighters will never contact restaurants by telephone to request activation of fire suppression systems or fire alarms,” says State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. “If restaurant employees receive such a phone call, they should just hang up.”

These systems should only be tested by professionals and in a very controlled setting. Activating fire suppression systems costs restaurant owners thousands of dollars and hours of lost time. If the scammers are identified, they could face felony charges.

When the restaurant’s suppression system is activated, the local fire department is alerted and responds to the scene. Local fire agencies notified the State Fire Marshal about this activity.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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