

## **Citizens And Businesses Should Remain Vigilant Against Fraudulent Schemes & Ski Thefts**

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-March 6, 2019**-The Steamboat Springs Police Department (SSPD) would like to remind local businesses and individuals to guard against fraudulent attacks and an increase in ski thefts from vehicles locally.

“Thefts are often a crime of opportunity,” said Police Chief Cory Christensen. “By locking up your property, you reduce the chances of it being stolen.”

The city became aware of an email scam targeting a businesses’ payroll systems. The company receives an email masked to look ‘official’ with a request to change an employee’s payroll direct deposit. The cybercriminals email a completed form containing pertinent employee information as well as a voided check from what appears to be the employee’s company email. Once the change is made, the money is gone and the chances of getting it back are minuscule.

In an effort to not fall victim to these schemes, companies should follow their internal safeguards as well as recommend that payroll changes be made in person if possible. A few basic tips to protect payroll and personal data include:

- Never leave your screen open to prying eyes when accessing employee information
- When working in public places never use an unsecured Wi-Fi network
- Always log out of email and work accounts when finished and refrain from using personal computer password keychains
- Continually audit payroll as well as educate and train employees on phishing and potential scams

SSPD suggests before sending any personal information, that you first confirm the validity through a phone call or other means. In addition, do not send money, give out personal information or click on unknown links in response to unexpected requests.

While digital crime is at the forefront, old-fashion theft is also experiencing a resurgence. The SSPD reminds everyone that prevention is as easy as locking it up. And that goes for your ski racks too. An uptick in ski thefts from vehicle ski racks has been seen lately, particularly in the downtown area. Whenever leaving your vehicle, drivers should lock their doors and properly secure equipment so as not to tempt a thief.

“We live in a friendly community and can be lulled into complacency,” continued Christensen. “However, ensure you don’t miss out on the next big powder day and lock up your equipment and vehicles even if just running in for a few minutes.”

Anyone with additional questions or concerns, or with information on any other crime is encouraged to contact the Steamboat Springs Police Department at 970.879.1144.

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