Scam Alert – August 2010
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The Lure of the Perfect Job

The Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Department of Labor released statistics showing that the unemployment rate in Pueblo has risen to 9.9%. With the rise of unemployment, this opens the door for more opportunities of job scams. People are desperate to make money and find a job. It is frustrating when perusing the help wanted section of the newspaper or internet you locate and apply for a position where there are 50-100 people sitting in the lobby waiting to interview for one job.

An ad that might catch your eye in the help wanted section would be one that says: “No experience necessary. Make money fast. Work from home.” Sounds rewarding, doesn’t it? I mean after all, how many of us would like to work from home in our pajamas and fuzzy slippers. Think again. CNN.com/living recently reported in an article that there is a “56 to 1 scam ratio” among work-at-home job ads. With the internet, these type of ads can spread even more rapidly.

Rules of Safety While Job Hunting

1. If the ad sounds too good to be true, it is. If they offer a large pay scale for “no experience necessary”, be cautious. Remember that legitimate employers will be seeking applicants with knowledge, education and specific skills for the job.

2. For mystery shopping jobs, use common sense when someone mails you a check and asks you to deposit the check into your account and wire money as an evaluation process. No legitimate shopping service will ever ask you to do this.

3. A legitimate employer will not ask you to pay a fee up front to join their company.

4. If you see an ad for a government position and it states that was “previously undisclosed”, remember that all federal jobs are posted to the public at www.usajobs.gov.

5. Not every business pays to be a member of the BBB, but it doesn’t hurt to check the employer out with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbbsc.org or 1-866-206-1800) or with the Colorado Attorney General’s Office (http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/ or 1-800-222-4444).
6. Be careful of ads that look like they are from legitimate companies. Well-known companies have been victims of scam artists who use their good name to commit a fraud. If a website is given in an ad to apply for a position, research the company thoroughly to convince yourself it is a valid company and website you’re dealing with.

A basic rule of safety while job searching, “If it sounds too good to be true, it is!”

~IDENTIFY A SCAM BEFORE A SCAM IDENTIFIES YOU! ~