

CRIME ALERT

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MSU police warn community not to fall victim to phishing scams

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Several members of the MSU community recently have notified the Michigan State University Police Department about phishing emails and telephone calls attempting a scam.

One caller claimed to be from a crime investigation unit and told the person they had unpaid fees for an affidavit.

A second is a tax fraud phone scam where a person calls and accuses the individual of tax evasion and is very pushy. The caller ID was spoofed to reflect a law enforcement agency phone number, adding legitimacy to the call. Both of the telephone callers appeared to be calling from a call center.

The third scam is via email and states users' email accounts will be shut down by Microsoft due to congestion. An email address is given for the account holder to log on to confirm their email account details.

The last scam is an ATM scam where the person attempts to solicit your bank card in person or by social media with a promise to make money through a fake grant, counterfeit check, stolen check or other money scheme. These scams are illegal.

To avoid being a victim of a scam go to: <https://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/avoid-scams>, <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>, or <https://www.stopfraud.gov>

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Safety Tips

1. Never hand over your bank card or compromise your bank account's security.
2. Look at return addresses before opening your email. If you don't recognize the address, don't open it.
3. Be cautious when clicking on any link that will take you to another site. Look up the address of the site you're interested in and type in the address yourself.
4. Never give out your password, pin or social security number.
5. Become familiar with the information given in the above links to prevent you from becoming a victim of a scam artist.