



NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FINANCIAL CRIMES UNIT AND CAPITAL DISTRICT OFFICE

GOLD BAR SCAM ALERT-New Version of Phantom Hacker Scam

Phantom Hacker Scam



Tech Support Imposter

- Pretends to be technical support
- Directs you to install software on your computer to allow them remote access
- Can observe overall finances



Financial Institution Imposter

- States your computer and financial accounts have been hacked
- Directs you to move your money to a US Government entity, such as the Federal Reserve, for "safety"



US Government Imposter

- Poses as US government employee
- May provide official-looking letterhead to appear legitimate

GOLD BAR VERSION



Main Targets: Older Adult Population

- Scammers are still posing as Federal Agents but are now asking victims to turn their assets into **GOLD BARS**.
- Once the victim purchases gold bars, they are contacted and told an agent acting as a courier will meet them and pick up the gold to take it to a secure location.
- Once the handoff is made, couriers take the gold, and the victim never sees the gold again.

REMEMBER: S.T.O.P.



S: STOP – Scrutinize the correspondence and look for red flags that may indicate a scam.

T: TIME – Scammers will focus on this action being time-sensitive, so take your time to verify the legitimacy of the request.

O: OBJECT – No law enforcement agent, whether Federal, State, or Local, will contact you and tell you to convert assets for safekeeping.

P: PAUSE – Before committing to anything suspicious, contact your local law enforcement agency to verify all information.

Scam ALERT

Be Suspicious:

- Have you received a **text, email, or phone call** from someone claiming to be a **local, state, or federal law enforcement agent**?
- Have these so-called agents told you that your **retirement** or other **important financial accounts** have been **hacked** and need to be **safeguarded**?
- Have you been told to **convert** assets into **gold bars**?
- Have you been told a **Federal Agent courier** will meet you at a specific location to **pick up** the gold from you?

Are you a VICTIM?

If you feel you have been victimized by this scam, contact your **local police department or sheriff's office**.

North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation 3320 Garner Road, Raleigh, NC 27610
Main Telephone Number: 919-662-4500

Original Content Courtesy of the Montgomery County Police Department
Financial Crimes Unit in Gaithersburg, Maryland