

The Moreno Valley Fire Department Warns Businesses about Fraudulent Fire Inspectors

The Moreno Valley Fire Department warns local businesses to be watchful for fraudulent fire inspectors. Opportunists are always present, but never so much as when the economy is struggling. Fire Departments throughout the Inland Empire and the State of California have indicated an increase of both individuals and fire protection companies posing in official-looking clothing, and performing questionable “inspections” in local businesses. These fraudulent individuals will disguise themselves as fire department representatives and request to perform a fire protection inspection. After these false inspections, businesses typically receive an invoice for services that are allegedly performed. The invoice is then followed by aggressive collection efforts.



The Moreno Valley Fire Department inspects businesses on an annual basis. Business owners, managers, and employees should not let anyone inspect their fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, hood systems, or any other fire protection devices unless they are under annual contracts or reach another agreement for a specific fire protection service prior to the service call.

The Moreno Valley Fire Department offers local businesses the following items to look for before they consider retaining a vendor to perform any type of fire protection system services:

1. Make sure they introduce themselves, identify their business, and produce a business card. Allowing an individual to enter your business without a clear understanding of who that person is, as well as his or her intentions, is not recommended.
2. Request to see a copy of a current business license permit from your City of Moreno Valley Business License Office, a contractor’s “C-16” (fire sprinklers and fixed protection systems) or “C-10” (fire alarms) license. Check their license at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov>
3. Ensure they state what their intentions and what the estimated costs will be. Never pay in cash. Invoicing and record keeping are important for your business and the establishment of legal avenues.
4. Insist they leave any replaced or changed parts with the business owner. He or she must provide a signed invoice.

Remember that business owners may always refuse service and contact the Moreno Valley Fire Department for guidance. The Fire Prevention Bureau will gladly advise local businesses of any required service schedules of fire protection systems, and assist in verifying that a company is qualified to provide the appropriate inspection, testing, and maintenance.

For further information, or to report a fraudulent inspector, call the Moreno Valley Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau at 951.413.3370.

The Office of Emergency Management Offer the Following Power Outage Information

The City of Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management would like you to remember that safety always comes first during an outage, and here you'll find how to plan and prepare, and what you can do during an outage to keep your home and family comfortable and secure.

Prepare & Plan

Don't wait for an unexpected outage to determine what you may need. Buying a few basic supplies beforehand, making preparations for special needs in your household and keeping a few things handy are all part of making an outage plan for your home and family.



Home Power Outage Kit Checklist:

- First Aid Kit: including unexpired prescription medications
- Special Needs Items: for infants, elderly and/or disabled
- A Battery-Operated Radio: to access news reports
- Fresh Batteries: for all necessary equipment
- Bottled Water: at least one gallon per person, per day
- Non-Perishable Food: that doesn't require cooking
- Manual Can Opener
- Several Coolers or Ice Chests: to store ice if the outage is lengthy
- Non-Cordless Phone: to plug in during outages
- Flashlights: store them where you can easily find them

Protective Measures

Some simple but important safety measures will help keep your family members, home, and even pets protected during an outage. Keeping food cold, having a plan for medical emergencies, and even knowing what to unplug and reset are all part of putting safety first.

- Place flashlights in handy locations, such as near telephones
- Install surge protectors to help safeguard valuable electronic equipment such as computers and home entertainment systems

- Know where to find each utility box (electricity, water and gas) and how to turn them off. Keep the proper tools to do so handy
- Always back up important work and files on your computer and keep them in a safe and secure location
- If you have an automatic garage door or gate, learn how to open them manually (without power)

For more information on how to be prepared for a power outage, please contact the Office of Emergency Management staff at 951.413.3800.