



ALASKA OFFICIALS WARN OF POSSIBLE SCAMS AT PFD DISTRIBUTION TIME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 5, 2008

(Anchorage, AK) Department of Public Safety Acting Commissioner John Glass, Department of Law Attorney General Talis Colberg and Kevin Fryslie, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the State of Alaska, urge Alaskans to be wary of telemarketing, email and mail scams targeting Alaskans in connection with the arrival of Permanent Fund Dividend checks.

PFD checks are expected to start being deposited in bank accounts as early as September 12, 2008. This year each PFD recipient will also receive an additional \$1200 Resource Rebate designed to help with the high cost of fuel and heating bills. This means that a family of four could receive \$12,000 or more.

Con artists are known to follow headlines and current events and use them to their advantage. They may train their sites on Alaskans at PFD time to persuade Alaskans to use their Dividend or rebate checks to invest in bogus securities, rare coins, oil wells, or other fake investments. They may also try to take advantage of Alaskans' generous nature by urging them to donate to causes that sound good – such as aiding victims of natural disasters, supporting veterans, or helping cancer victims – but the “donations” only line the wallets of the con artists.

“Scam artists will view Alaskans as potential ‘deep pockets’ because of the Dividend and rebate checks. We all need to be on the lookout for financial scams at PFD time,” said Acting Public Safety Commissioner John Glass. “Before investing money or donating to a cause you may be unfamiliar with, take the time to ensure that you are using your money wisely,” he added.

Charities that solicit donations in Alaska are required to register with the Department of Law. Information on fake charities and other consumer fraud issues is available at <http://www.law.state.ak.us/consumer/>. The IC3.gov website lists many scams that are commonly perpetrated. Consumers who have questions about investments, brokers, or other financial professionals can call the Division of Banking and Securities Hotline at 1-888-925-2521.

For additional information, please contact DPS Public Information Officer Megan Peters at (907) 269-5413, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Drinkwater at (907) 269-5200 or Special Agent Eric Gonzales with the FBI Alaska at (907) 276-4441.