



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Eureka Police Department**

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10/25/2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Subject: EPD Issues Warning About Bank Scam**

#### **Contact:** Sergeant Steve Watson

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On 10/24/11, a local resident contacted the Eureka Police Department to report a bank scam in which he'd nearly been a victim. The victim related he'd received an automated phone call yesterday from a number, **718-683-3104**, in which the caller falsely identified themselves as Chase Bank. The automated caller advised the victim that their security had been breached and his account with the bank had been compromised.

The victim was informed his debit card had been deactivated for his security. He was then instructed to "press 1" to reactivate his card. Upon doing so, the victim was then asked to enter his account number. The victim wisely ended the call at this point and contacted his local bank representative, who informed him this phone number was associated with a scam and was not associated with their bank.

An internet search on this phone number confirmed it is a number associated with other similar bank scams. This included text messages in place of the automated phone calls to victims' cell phones. Various other bank names are being used in the scam associated with this phone number.

The language used in the scam is similar to: *"We regret to inform you that due to a security breach, we have deactivated your Visa debit card. In order to reactivate your debit card please press one."* The scam appears designed to obtain your account and personal information and ultimately your (or the bank's) money. The suspects are phishing for information to be used to steal your identity.

The Eureka Police Department would like to remind everyone to be exceedingly careful with your financial account and personal information as thieves are constantly seeking new ways to steal your financial identity. Your financial institution will never initiate such a call to you in which they ask for this kind of information as they already have it.

Steps to protect yourself:

- Do not respond to such calls or press anything.



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- Do not give out any financial information unless you initiate the call and have verified the person or organization with which you are dealing.
  - Check your credit report at least once a year and/or subscribe to a credit monitoring service.
  - Report any unauthorized financial transactions to your bank, credit card institution, and law enforcement as soon as you detect them.

Helpful links:

<http://www.consumerfraudreporting.org/reporting.php>

<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud>

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