



BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO BUSINESS E-MAIL COMPROMISE SCAM

DATE: July 6, 2016

The Burbank Police Department and the FBI are warning potential victims of a dramatic rise in the business e-mail compromise scam or "B.E.C.," a scheme that targets businesses and has resulted in massive financial losses, including here in Burbank.

The scammers go to great lengths to spoof company e-mail or use social engineering to assume the identity of the CEO, a company attorney or trusted vendor. They research employees who manage money and use language specific to the company they are targeting, then they request a wire fund transfer using dollar amounts that lend legitimacy.

There are various versions of the scams. Victims range from large corporations, tech companies, small businesses to non-profit organizations. Many times the fraud targets businesses that work with foreign suppliers or regularly perform wire transfer payments.

- From October 2013 through February 2016, law enforcement received reports from 17,642 victims, amounting to more than \$2.3 billion in losses
- Since January 2015, the FBI has seen a 270 percent increase in identified victims and exposed loss
- Loss per scam has been as high as \$75,000

If your company has been victimized by a BEC scam:

- Contact your financial institution immediately
- Request that they contact the financial institution where the fraudulent transfer was sent
- [File a complaint](#), regardless of dollar loss, with the [IC3](#)
- Contact Burbank PD or your local police agency to file a crime report

Tips for Businesses:

- Be wary of e-mail only wire transfer requests and requests involving urgency
- Pick up the phone and verify legitimate business partners
- Be cautious of mimicked e-mail addresses
- Practice multi-level authentication

Resources:

- [FBI stats & tips on business e-mail scams](#)
- [Public service announcement about the business e-mail compromise scam](#)
- [More about IC3](#)

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT MAY BE DIRECTED TO
SERGEANT CLAUDIO LOSACCO, @ 818-238-3240 OR CLOSACCO@BURBANKCA.GOV

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210

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BURBANKPD.ORG

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LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG

CRIME STOPPERS: 800-222-TIPS (8477)

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