

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

TEXT PHONE SCAM

This is the newest of phone scams that **I have gotten** in the last three days. It's annoying and they, the scammers are persistent. If you get a text out-of-state area code it more than likely is from a scammer. This is what I received; the XYZ and alphabet letters are actually numbers.

+1 (XXX) XXX-XXXX – Initial Text Phone Number – Out of State Area Code

When you click on the text, a different out-of-state phone number appears
+ 1 (YYY) YYY-YYYY

THE MESSAGE:

Free Mesg: Your bill is paid for March. Thanks, here's a little gift for you:

After the message, there is a link for you to click on.

LINK: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP

Then there is a 3rd out-of-state phone number. All three (3) phone numbers are different and all three (3) phone numbers have a different area code

+ 1 (ZZZ) ZZZ-ZZZZ

Under **NO** circumstance are you to click onto this link; **DO NOT CLICK ON THIS LINK!**
This is SCAM to get your personal information and/or put a virus on your phone. **AGAIN; DO NOT CLICK ON THIS LINK!**

NOTE: You will get **MULTIPLE TEXT SCAMS** during the course of the day ... and all the phone numbers and links will be different. The only thing that will be the **SAME** is the message.

There is nothing you are going to be able to do but to delete the text and be annoyed from what the cell phone providers have told me. You cannot put a block on texts like you can on unwanted phone calls. I believe that this **TEXT SCAM** is more likely than not through generated the use of a computer that sequences multiple phone numbers regardless of you deleting the text. Once they got your number, you at their mercy. Be careful and never open a link that is sent by a caller you don't know are unsure of. They have a lot to gain and you have a lot to lose.

Joseph R. Palmerson