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Update to Firefighter Impersonator in Portsmouth

Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services investigators have identified the individual who was reported earlier this week to be representing himself as a firefighter in Portsmouth neighborhoods. After thorough investigation, it has been determined that the individual was a trainee for a business that offers home safety inspections and products. According to company representatives, the individual was not representing the company at the time of the contacts with residents, but our investigation does not indicate that the individual offered any threat or malicious intent to the public.

We would like to express our appreciation to the members of our local media organizations for their quick and accurate response to our request to advise the public of the possible dangers inherent in someone misrepresenting themselves as a government official. We also want to thank the members of the public who responded with information needed by investigators. The quick action on the part of both the media and the public resulted in a rapid and successful conclusion to this investigation.

While we now know that this incident represented no threat to the public, we want to reinforce the safety precautions offered earlier. Identify anyone that attempts to enter your home before providing information or allowing them entry. Ensure that persons claiming to be representing fire or law enforcement agencies present proper credentials, including badge and identification. If in doubt, refuse entry and call 9-1-1 to verify that the individual present is there legitimately.

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