

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force

Stanislaus Satellite Lab

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

1:00 P.M. For Immediate Release

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PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

MODESTO, CA: Identity Theft and other types of fraud increase at alarming rates during the holiday season and Identity Theft continues to be the number one crime across America.

Educating the public on protecting your identity continues to be the best line of defense for law enforcement. Online phishing (pronounced "fishing") continues to fool victims into providing their personal information to unknown thieves over the Internet. In short, it's a way to trick computer users into revealing their personal or financial information through fraudulent e-mail messages and fake Web sites. Phishing has been described as the fastest-growing crime on the Internet, and it often leads to identity theft and other crimes against its victims. Unfortunately, the average computer user still does not know what to look for.

The latest ID Theft Pamphlet offering tips on how to protect yourself and step-by-step instructions if you are a victim are available at Assemblyman Dave Cogdill's Office, the Modesto Police Department and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. This information is also offered at www.modestopolice.com, www.stanislaussheriff.com and www.assembly.ca.gov. These links also offer an interactive test that will teach you how to spot a fraudulent site. This interactive test, provided by Kiplinger Personal Finance Magazine, is a great way to understand how not to be taken by one of these scams.

"Working together with several resources, The Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force is dedicated to educating the public and reducing the number of cases of community members being victimized via the Internet," said task force Detective Kipp Loving.

For information about this news release, contact police spokesperson Officer Rick Applegate at (209) 652-1206.

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