



SAFE | Security Awareness for Everyone

TIP SHEET - SEPTEMBER 2025

Scammers Are Manipulating Your Emotions

Scammers are manipulating your emotions! So take a deep breath and read on.

IS AN EMAIL, TEXT, OR DM MAKING YOU FEEL SUDDEN, URGENT EMOTIONS?

- “You won our sweepstakes!”
- “Police are on the way to arrest you!”
- “I’ve been recording you.”

THESE EMOTIONS CAN BE POSITIVE:

- You won an expensive cooler but you have to respond fast to claim it!
- An attractive stranger wants to be your friend and strike up a convo!
- You’re owed money from a forgotten account!

MESSAGES AND EMAILS CAN ALSO BE SCARY:

- You owe back taxes and we’re coming to collect unless you call!
- It’s your boss (texting you from an unknown number), but needs to confirm your bank account info for HR ASAP!
- You’ve been hacked and you need to pay up now.

All of these are indication of scams and phishing!

IS A MESSAGE PUSHING YOU TO ACT BEFORE YOU can think?

- Is it causing strong feelings like confusion, joy, or panic?
- Is it unexpected, or doesn’t make sense?
- Is it requesting you take action, like making a payment?

These goes for emails, texts, DMs, and now even calls because of artificial intelligence platforms that can recreate someone’s voice:

1. Don’t click!
Don’t even click Unsubscribe!
2. Report emails as phishing if possible.
3. Delete!
4. Block the contact info from all scammy phone numbers.

DON’T RESPOND TO WRONG NUMBERS!

Another common scam we see now is a slower burn. It often starts with a “mistaken text” from a number you don’t recognize:

- “Hey how r u”
- “Do you have any dentist recommendations?”
- “It was wonderful running into you last night”

These are just a few examples of how a scammer can initiate a conversation that ultimately leads to a scam. Don’t respond. Don’t even text back “wrong number.” Just **Block and Report!**

It’s not rude. If someone really did text you by accident, they’ll figure it out.

So, take action, but make sure it’s the right kind - after taking the time to consider these tips and suggestions. Better safe than sorry never felt so good!