Beware of Fraudulent Fire Inspectors

Recently, in El Segundo, individuals have been representing themselves to be fire department personnel, attempting to conduct safety inspections of businesses for a fee.

For your information and safety, the El Segundo Fire Department annually conducts fire safety inspections at all businesses. The business owner is responsible to have fire extinguishers, hood fire extinguishing systems, and other fire extinguishing and fire alarm systems tested and maintained. The following information is offered to identify if an inspection or test is required:

1. Fire suppression and fire alarm system are required to be inspected and/or tested by a properly trained and licensed person at the following intervals:
   - Hood fire extinguishing system require a service inspection at least once every 6 months
   - Fire extinguishers require a maintenance inspection once a year
   - Fire alarm system are required to be tested once a year

2. Business owners should not allow anyone to inspect their fire extinguishers, sprinkler system, fire alarm system, or any other fire protection device unless they are properly licensed.

3. If your business is contacted by a salesperson or service technician stating they are required to inspect your business or service your fire extinguishers, ask to see their identification. The California Health and Safety Code requires all service technicians to have a Certificate of Registration (picture license issued by the California State Fire Marshal). If they do not have proper identification, do not allow them to perform any work.

4. If the contractor is not the one you normally use, check the system or extinguisher tag and see if an inspection is due, or call your normal company to schedule an inspection.

5. If you have any questions, or concerns about anyone asking to service your fire extinguisher or hood system, please contact the El Segundo Fire Department at (310) 524-2234.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVES LIVES