

February 17, 2010

REPORTS OF SUSPECTED INSURANCE FRAUD ON THE RISE IN VIRGINIA

RICHMOND, Va. - The Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program just released their 2009 Annual Report, which shows the number of suspected insurance fraud notifications received by the VSP are continuing to increase.

In 2009, the IFP received a record 2,078 notifications of suspected insurance fraud, which is an 8 percent increase over 2008. This increase in suspected fraud may be indicative of the economy as citizens look to get out from under mortgage and car payments they can no longer afford. Property-related fraud reported to the IFP increased by 13.4 percent; and there was an 11.8 percent jump in the number of notifications involving injury and casualty fraud.

Since being established in 1999, the IFP has made significant progress in its anti-fraud efforts in Virginia. Over the past ten years:

- Insurance fraud special agents have made 1,658 arrests for insurance fraud and related offenses;
- 937 cases have been presented to the commonwealth's attorneys for prosecution; and
- 1,570 cases have been adjudicated.
- The total amount of court-ordered restitution has reached nearly \$14 million.
- Since the first Sharp Eye Reward was paid out in 2004, the IFP has awarded \$73,250 in cash to tipsters whose information about suspected insurance fraud led to an arrest.

Insurance fraud is a costly crime that affects all Virginia households, not only in increased premiums, but also by driving up the cost of everyday goods and services. The crime of insurance fraud is ranked second behind tax evasion as the most common and costly white-collar crime in the U.S. It's estimated to add as much as \$1,000 per Virginia household to the cost of goods and between \$200 and \$1,000 per year in additional premiums due to fraudulent insurance claims.

The VSP is committed to "Stamp Out" insurance fraud occurring in the Commonwealth. If you have knowledge of a fraudulent insurance scheme or suspect you may have been the victim of insurance fraud, report the activity to Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program on the insurance fraud hotline at 1-877-62FRAUD (1-877-623-7283) or visit www.StampOutFraud.com. You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Tipsters will remain anonymous and may also be eligible to receive a reward of up to \$25,000.

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