

# Beware of phony fire inspectors in San Marcos

There have been several recent reports of people posing as fire inspectors and claiming they need to do a safety inspection at local businesses. Sometimes they even say a business needs new equipment installed or repaired. After their visit, they bill the business for hundreds of dollars.

**This is a fraudulent practice and you do not need to comply with these phony inspectors.**

The San Marcos Fire Department conducts fire inspections once a year at all businesses; however, our inspections are **FREE OF CHARGE** and are **NEVER** conducted by a private party or company.



## How to spot a phony inspector:

Phony	Legitimate
Wears dark blue pants and t-shirt similar to what firefighters wear.	Wears dark blue uniforms with official badges and shoulder patches.
Drives an unmarked or non-descript vehicle.	Drives an official city vehicle bearing the City of San Marcos seal.
States they have been sent by the fire department to conduct an inspection.	Says they are from the San Marcos Fire Department. The fire department never hires contractors to conduct inspections.
Asks you to sign an inspection form, but does not leave you a copy.	Goes over inspection form with you and leaves you a copy.
Requests immediate payment in cash or sends an invoice and requests payment be sent to a post office box.	Does not charge for inspection since annual inspections by the fire department are always free of charge.
Insists on installing new equipment or repairing existing equipment.	Instructs you on how to do repairs yourself or how to hire a contractor. The fire department is not authorized to install, repair or replace fire equipment.

**Anyone who offers or demands to inspect your business but does not follow San Marcos Fire Department procedures should not be confronted. Instead, simply refuse service and call the Sheriff's Department immediately at (760) 510-5200 (press "1" for dispatch). Be prepared to describe the person and their vehicle.**

**For more information:** Fire Inspector Josh Wilcox  
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*If outside of business hours, please call the sheriff's department directly at (760) 510-5200.*

