



HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS WARNS CUSTOMERS ABOUT BOGUS WATER WORKERS

HOLLAND, Mich., (March 23, 2009) – The Holland Board of Public Works is urging customers to be on guard against individuals posing as employees from the “Water Department.”

The Kent County Sheriff’s office has reported that residents in Kent County have been experiencing situations where individuals may be attempting to impersonate a water department employee in an attempt to enter the residence with criminal intent.

The Holland BPW urges customers to ask for and check identification closely before allowing anybody in their home.

The HBPW reminds customers that each employee carries a company picture identification card and must show it when asked by a customer. Further, when the HBPW does require testing from a specific residence, a bottle with instructions is left for the homeowner to fill with a sample of water, and return the bottle for later pickup at the entrance of the home. Entry into the home to test the water is typically not required by HBPW employees.

To help protect yourself and your home, HBPW offers the following precautions:

- If someone comes to your door when you have not requested a specific utility service, ask for company picture identification. If there is no HBPW vehicle in sight, call the HBPW at 355.1500 – not a number provided by the caller -- to verify the identity of the caller.
- Never open your door to a suspicious person.
- Get a description of suspicious person(s) for police, but do so from a safe distance.
- Get a description of any vehicles that were used; again, do so from a safe distance.
- Do not give cash to anyone for work you had not requested.
- Call your local law enforcement officials for assistance if you feel threatened.
- Report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement officials at your earliest convenience.

The Holland Board of Public Works is a municipally owned utility, providing electricity, water filtration and wastewater treatment to the City of Holland and the surrounding communities.

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For more information, contact:

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