MESA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FRAUD ALERT

ASPHALT SCAM

What is an asphalt scam?

This is a reoccurring scam in our community and the Sheriff's Office is hearing more about it recently. In the latest situation, an adult male contacts a homeowner at their front door claiming to have extra asphalt from another job just completed in the area. Typically, some sort of product is applied to the drive way for the homeowner under the impression it is a new asphalt drive way. The job and the product are subpar materials and workmanship.

How can it be used to commit a fraud?

Essentially, the work either doesn't get done at all, doesn't get completed and if completed, it is subpar materials and workmanship. However, the homeowner has paid the cost in advance, usually with a personal check or cash. Be aware of this scam because in most cases, it is considered a civil case/issue and not a criminal incident. When a homeowner enters into an agreement, even a verbal agreement, with a person over work and some sort of work is done with payment exchanged...any expectation not met either with full payment or for professional level work is a civil issue.

What can I do to prevent this fraud from happening to me?

First of all, if you don't know the person at your front door— don't answer it. If you do choose to converse with anyone making this type of offer, it might sound too good to be true. In those cases, it almost always is. Finally, if you need professional work done at your home, you should seek out that work directly yourself through a referral from people you know and trust, contact the local Chamber of Commerce office, and/or vet any business through the Better Business Bureau.

To report a Fraud in Mesa County, contact:

Mesa County Sheriff's Office Main Number at (970) 244-3500