



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Fire Prevention Department – Safety and Environmental Services Section

1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine CA 92602 – www.ocfa.org – (714) 573-6180 / Fax (714) 368-8836

Beware of Fraudulent Fire Inspectors

Recently, the City of Torrance prosecuted two individuals and a fire protection company for posing as firefighters performing inspections on local businesses. The investigation revealed that the subjects would enter a business suggesting they represented the fire department and stated they were going to perform the “Quarterly Fire Inspection.” After these fraudulent inspections, businesses would receive an invoice for various services that were allegedly performed. This was then followed by “aggressive and professional collection efforts.”

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) conducts fire safety inspections within our jurisdiction once a year or once every three years depending on the business type. These inspections are free unless your business requires a permit per the California Fire Code.

OCFA personnel can be identified by their uniforms and vehicles. They wear uniforms with a badge and an OCFA shoulder patch that says “Orange County Fire” and drive vehicles displaying the OCFA’s seal on each side of the vehicle.

We do not use private companies to inspect businesses and we do not repair or replace equipment. Our firefighters and inspectors only provide fire safety inspections and will leave a copy of the Fire Safety Inspection form upon request.

If you need your fire protection equipment serviced (fire extinguishers, fire sprinkler system, cooking hood system, and fire alarm, etc) it is recommended that business owners get a written agreement from the fire protection service company before the work begins. To help in identifying qualified workers, require them to do the items listed below **BEFORE** you consider retaining their services.

1. Require them to introduce themselves and tell you what company they work for and ask to see their business card. *Allowing them to conduct an inspection or work without your approval and giving you an invoice after the work is completed, is not recommended.*
2. If you are hiring them to perform work on your fire sprinkler system, request to see their California State Fire Marshal picture identification and a C-16 license issued by the California Contractors State License Board and request to see a C-10 license for electrical work or repairs.
3. Require them to tell you what they intend to do and what the estimated costs will be. (DO NOT pay in cash! Invoicing and recordkeeping are important for your business and legal documentation).
4. Require them to leave any defective parts that they replaced or changed.
5. Require them to leave a signed invoice.