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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2009

Copy Machine Toner Cartridges - Don't Get Scammed

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A popular phone scam currently circulating is that of a sales representative trying to sell copy machine toner cartridges.

Copiers leased, or placed, through our statewide contracts INCLUDE toner cartridge replacement. DAS Procurement strongly suggests reviewing contract [04PSX0044](#) (especially page 13 section 2.7, and page 41, footnote #1).

The caller will identify himself as a representative from a legitimate state vendor – but misrepresenting the company. He or she will try to sell you toner cartridges at “substantial savings” and highlight that this offer is only available via your agency P-card.

“These scam artists are getting more high-tech,” said DAS Procurement Director Carol Wilson. “We’ve heard of a few instances where legitimate looking emails are used to entice an employee to make a purchase over the Internet.”

Don't be fooled, if there is any suspicion, call the vendor directly or DAS Procurement.

Some words of wisdom from people who have experienced these calls say the caller never gives a last name or phone number and, if questioned enough, will likely get frustrated and hang up.

Professional courtesy dictates that it is acceptable to hang up on an aggressive sales person, especially if you are suspicious of their motive or the representative makes you feel uncomfortable in any way.

Once the call is over, DAS Procurement suggests alerting other purchasing staff members about your contact with this person as well as how you handled the situation.

REMEMBER, if you leased your copier off of a state contract, toner cartridges and replacement cartridges are already covered in the contract. Also, even if you open the box of toner cartridge, you are not responsible for payment.

“DAS Procurement is taking proactive measures to inform all of our business partners of this particular situation. As with your own personal credit cards, please be cautious about giving out your P-Card number and verify the legitimacy of all orders place to suppliers,” said Wilson.



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Contracts over the last 20 Days

Click on the category to see the contract
Adobe Acrobat Required

09PSX0201 - Carpentry equipment for the Department of Education (DOE) Technical Schools

09PSX0253 - Playground Safety Inspections

09PSX0271 - Post, Wood 6"

For more information visit: www.das.state.ct.us

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Procurement Points

DAS Procurement's Pat DeConti and Arlene Watson attended the Clean Cities Clean Fuels & Vehicles Technology Expo at the Connecticut Expo Center in late October. Clean Cities is a government and industry partnership sponsored by the US Department of Energy. Their mission is to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation industry.

"The expo covered a wide array of topics regarding alternative fuels, electric cars and the next generation of vehicles," said Watson.

Both DeConti and Watson agreed the most interesting product was Idleright. Typically, a vehicle that idles for six hours at an emergency or construction site can use as much as four gallons of gas. The same vehicle with Idleright device uses less than one-quarter of a gallon of gas and never jeopardizes the charge of the battery. The technology is currently being tested by the Connecticut State Police.

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Another feather in Procurement's cap has been their negotiating skills. Pat DeConti renegotiated contract 06PSX0067 for trucks with no increase in price. "With the state's current budget constraints and the type of year the auto industry has had, we were able to negotiate no price increase in the contract," said DeConti.

Also, a natural gas auction was held, saving the state of Connecticut a projected \$3.1 million over the next two years in energy costs.