



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Office of Research Security Newsletter

October 1, 2017

FCC warns consumers about the “Yes” phone scam



A HQAMC G-3/4 protection division has discovered from open source reporting of the latest phone scam. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is warning consumers about a new scam that is hooking consumers with just one word: “Yes”.

According to the FCC, the scam begins as soon as a person answers the phone. A recorded voice or an actual person asks: “Can you hear me?” and the consumer responds, “Yes.”

The caller then records the consumer’s “Yes” response and thus obtains a voice signature. This signature can later be used by the scammers to pretend to be the consumer and authorize fraudulent charges via telephone.

According to public new reports and complaints received by the FCC, the fraudulent callers impersonate representatives from organizations that provide a service and may be familiar to the person receiving the call, such as a mortgage lender or utility, to establish a legitimate reason for trying to reach the consumer.

Situational Awareness: The FCC advises consumers to immediately hang up if they receive this type of call. It also said that if consumers had responded “Yes” to a similar call in the past, they should keep an eye on all financial statements for any unauthorized activities.

The FCC shared the following tips:

1. Don’t answer calls from unknown numbers, let them go to voicemail.
2. If you answer and the caller (often a recording) asks you to hit a button to stop receiving calls, just hang up.
3. If you receive a scam call, write down the number and file a complaint with the FCC.
4. Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service.

Visit: ww.fcc.gov/ for more information on phone scams.

SCAMS
TARGET YOU
PROTECT YOURSELF

Spooky Truths Regarding Halloween Safety On and Off the Road

Kids love the magic of Halloween: Trick-or-treating, classroom parties and trips to a neighborhood haunted house.

But for moms and dads, often there is a fine line between Halloween fun and safety concerns, especially when it comes to road and pedestrian safety.

In 2015, about 6,700 pedestrian deaths and 160,000 medically consulted injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents, according to Injury Facts 2017, the statistical report on unintentional injuries created by the National Safety Council.

NSC research reveals about 17% of these deaths occurred when pedestrians improperly crossed roads or intersections. Lack of visibility because of low lighting or dark clothing accounted for about 15% of the deaths. Other circumstances varied by age: Darting or running into the road accounted for about 15% of deaths in kids ages 5 to 9 and 7% for those 10 to 15.

In the U.S., October ranks No. 2 in motor vehicle deaths by month. NSC data put August first, with 3,642 deaths, followed by October, 3,550, and July, 3,530.

Follow These Ghoulishly Good Best Practices

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, the American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled a list of Halloween Safety Tips, including do's and don'ts on the trick-or-treat trail:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time when children should return home
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat

Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street. NSC offers the following safety tips for parents - and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing

Trick-or-Treating

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home

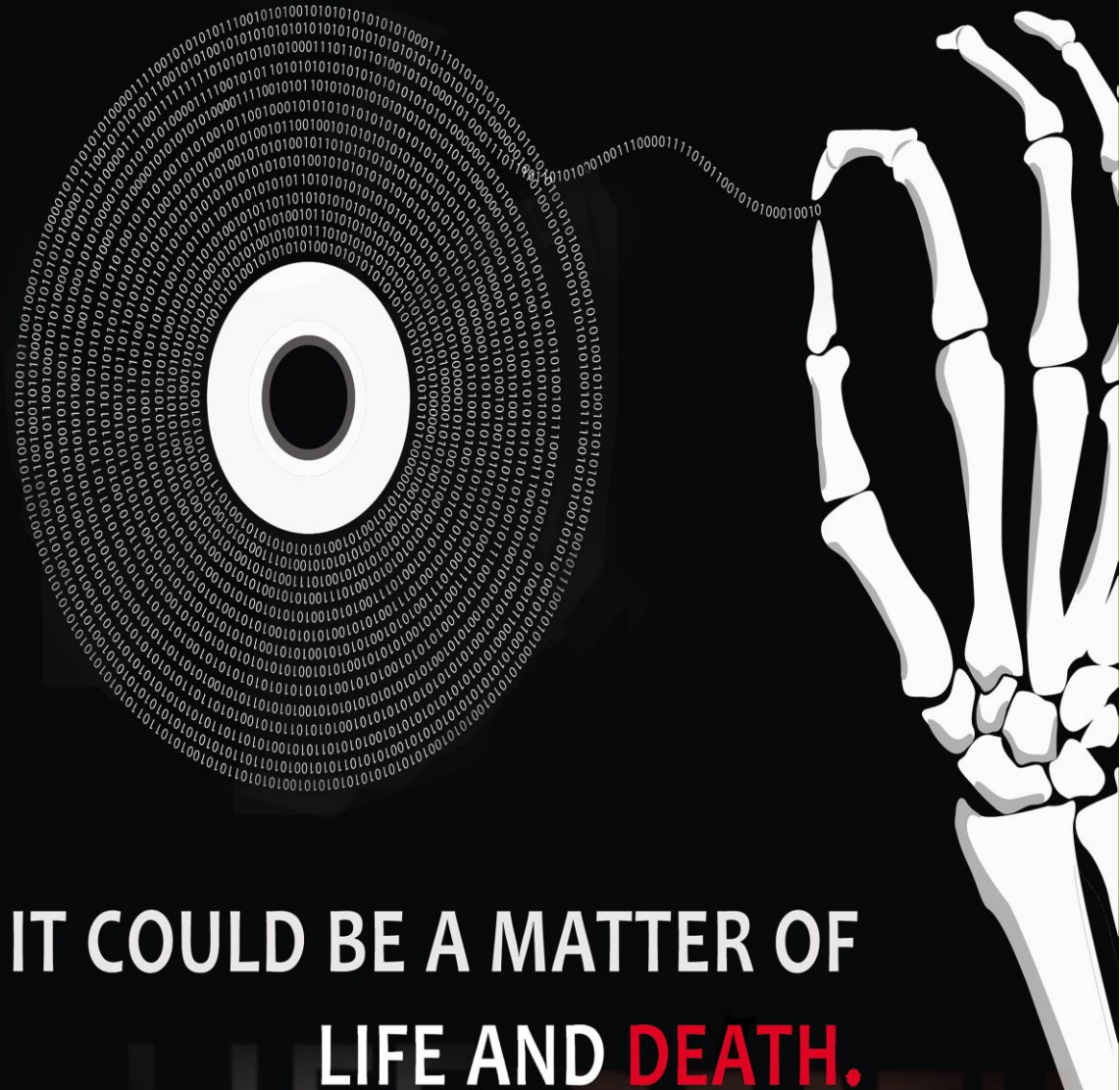
Costumes

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/halloween-safety.aspx>



**BE CAUTIOUS OF THE DATA
YOU'RE ENTRUSTED WITH...**



**IT COULD BE A MATTER OF
LIFE AND **DEATH.****