



**County of Santa Cruz**  
**Office of the District Attorney**  
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## EVACUEE HOUSING SCAMS

The District Attorney's Office of the County of Santa Cruz has received several complaints regarding housing scams concerning individuals and families looking for temporary housing as a result of the current CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire.

Protect yourself from these scams by following these guidelines:

1. Do not give a deposit through a wire transfer or other electronic means without first seeing the rental unit.
2. Never pay for anything with gift cards.
3. Verify ownership of the property through the Santa Cruz County Recorder's website online portal and/or assessor's office online service.
4. In general, landlords do not offer discounts for paying multiple months in advance. If this is offered, make sure to double check validity of rental.
5. Craigslist is a place scams are prevalent. Be very careful if renting through a Craigslist rental offering.
6. Report any suspicious listings to Craigslist, or to the website upon which the rental unit is listed.

If you would like to report a local scam in Santa Cruz County, contact the District Attorney's Office by calling (831) 454-2050 or complete an online complaint, which can be found at <https://consumercomplaintform.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/#>. The form can be emailed to [cfep@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:cfep@santacruzcounty.us) or sent by US mail to Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, Consumer Fraud Protection Division, 701 Ocean Street, Room 200, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.