



March 11, 2010

Note: Below is information on a scam that is going on in North Carolina. The person perpetrating this scam has taken a number of dealers. He may also try this in other areas. Thank you to SBMA for providing this information.

One of our dealers called today to tell us about an elaborate scam that almost succeeded at his company. Below are the details. The names used are the ones provided to us by the dealer reporting this.

Company X was contacted by phone by a guy named Mark Wilson. He said he was with Redmon Furniture, 1345 Elgin Ave., High Point, NC and gave a phone number of 336.454.0590. He said that he wanted to purchase various things for some homes he had going up in the area.

Mark Wilson gave the following references and information. At first blush they seemed OK. Both companies were called and said that he credit was good.

Wachovia Bank, Thomasville

S & H Lumber, Thomasville, 336.884.2190

Piedmont Supply, Fax: 336.740.5719, High Point

The guy then called back to order 80 squares of shingles (40 of two different colors); nails, nail guns, etc. The employee taking the call said that he was over his limit finally and he backed off of a few of the items but they still totaled \$7000.

When the employee went to lunch he called back again and wanted to add Hip & Ridge to the order. Thankfully, someone else there said "but he was already over his limit". When the owner heard this he asked if the guy had asked for quotes and was told no – just placed the order. He grew suspicious and looked up the S & H Lumber. He found that it was a sawmill and that was not their phone number. They had never heard of him.

He then tried to find Piedmont Supply. They did not exist.

He then went online to <http://www.intelius.com/> and did a reverse phone number. He found that the S&H number was to a cell phone. He did a reverse number for the fax of Piedmont Supply and it came up as a phone number for a Quinn Ditto in another area of the state.

He then looked up the address given for the Redmon Furniture and found it was for a "Just Us Frames" company that was out of business.

He had not talked with the owners of S&H Lumber (the sawmill company that had never heard of the guy) when the driver came to pick up the load yesterday afternoon. He told the driver that he was not releasing the material until he had done some further checking. The driver didn't seem concerned and left. He has heard nothing from the company since then.

He said that the driver did tell him that he had been going all over the state picking up material. He suggested that it would be worth the \$19.95 per month that he is now paying Intelius to look up phone numbers and addresses. In fact, he has asked his credit person to use this from now on to check references. It's too easy to pay someone \$100 to say "yes, his credit is good".

We also have just learned that another dealer in our association was taken for a large amount of money by this exact scam. There is an ongoing police investigation in connection with this incident.

If you find that you have been taken by this scam or it's been attempted, please let LAT know.