

# SECURITY AWARENESS

08/05/11

## **CALLS FROM 809, 649, 284 AREA CODES**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has recently learned that an old long distance phone scam that leads consumers to incur high charges on their phone bills may now affect wireless consumers. In the past, consumers have been fooled into making expensive international calls by scam artists who leave messages on consumers' answering machines or their email accounts.

The messages urge consumers to call a number with an "809," "284," "876," or some other area code to collect a prize, find out about a sick relative, or engage in sex talk.

### **What You Can Do to Minimize the Risk of This Happening to You!**

- ❖ Check any unfamiliar area codes before returning calls.
- ❖ Be aware that there are many 3-digit area codes (mostly in the Caribbean) that connect callers to international telephone numbers.
- ❖ If you do not otherwise make international calls, ask your local or wireless phone company to block outgoing international calls on your line.

For further information you may go to:

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/calls-809-649-284-area-codes>



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
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