

# JOPLIN

# POLICE

303E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street \* Joplin, MO 64801-2274 \* 417-623-3131 \* Fax 417-624-9820

Lane Roberts  
Chief of Police

**Date:** December 16, 2013

**Origin:** Department PIO

**Contact:** Lt. Matt Stewart

**Phone:** 623-3131 Ext 696

## **Possible Payment Scam**

The Joplin Police Department has learned of a possible scam involving an individual attempting to extort money from businesses by portraying themselves as an Empire District Electric representative. Empire became aware of the scam over the weekend when advised by a group of customers that a person was calling telling them that their electric service will be disconnected unless they purchase a money order or a prepaid debit card and then give that information to the caller within a certain amount of time.

According to Brent Baker, director of Customer Service for Empire, "We would not ask a customer to purchase a money order or prepaid debit card to make a payment. We also do not make calls regarding delinquent accounts on weekends and evenings. If a customer receives such a call, we ask they call our contact center at 800-206-2300. This is the number listed in the phone book and on our website."

If you have received a call regarding this type of activity and made a payment, please contact your local law enforcement to make a police report.

\*\*\*\*\*