



# BEWARE: WIRE FRAUD

In 2016 the Internet Crime Complaint Center saw a

**480%**  
increase in complaints  
from title companies  
targeted by email scams.\*\*  
- FBI



Since 2013, there have been  
**22,000 reported cases** of  
wire fraud involving losses of

**\$3.1  
BILLION.\***  
- FinCEN



## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

**FRAUDULENT WIRING** instructions are being sent to real estate agents, title companies and customers



**BE WARY**  
of free, web-based  
email accounts;  
they are easily  
hacked.



**ALWAYS VERIFY**  
changes in payment  
instructions and  
confirm requests for  
transfer of funds.



**BE SUSPICIOUS**  
of requests for secrecy  
or pressure to take  
action quickly.

## IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE A VICTIM:



Using a previously known phone number, call the supposed sender of the email to authenticate the change request - don't call the number on the email.



If you suspect fraud, immediately notify the financial institutions and escrow agent involved in the transaction.



Contact your local law enforcement authorities, and file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

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