



THE CIRCLE

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Carter Center NDEAM 2024 event: SES had two winners representing.



Brian Smith receiving the award for The Small Employer of the Year: **Furs Gonna Fly**

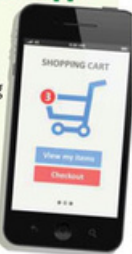


Doug Reynolds receiving the award for Region 1-3 Employee of the Year

Health And Wellness Focus: Christmas Scams!!!

According to a new study, 46% of Canadians say they have encountered malicious activity while shopping online. And Christmas is a prime time for scammers to take advantage of online shoppers. So to help educate consumers, here are 12 common criminal scams to be wary of.

12 scams of Christmas

1 Not-so-merry mobile apps Official-looking software for holiday shopping could be malicious, designed to steal or send out your personal data. 	2 Holiday mobile SMS scams FakeInstaller tricks Android users into thinking it is a legitimate installer for an application and then quickly takes advantage of the unrestricted access to smartphones, sending SMS messages to premium rate numbers without the user's consent.	3 Hot holiday gift scams Ads that offer deals on must-have items, such as PS4 or Xbox One, might be too good to be true. Clever crooks will post dangerous links, phony contests on social media sites, and send phishing e-mails to entice viewers to reveal personal information or download malware onto their devices.	4 Seasonal travel scams A hotel's Wi-Fi may claim that you need to install software before using it and instead infect your computer with malware if you "agree." 	5 Dangerous e-seasons greetings Official-looking software for holiday shopping could be malicious, designed to steal or send out your personal data. 	6 Deceptive online games Many sites offering full-version downloads of Grand Theft Auto, for example, are often laden with malware, and integrated social media pages can expose gamers, too. 
7 Shipping-notification shams Phony shipping notifications can appear to alert you to an update on your shipment, when in reality, they are scams carrying malware and other harmful software designed to infect your computer.	8 Bogus gift cards Beware of gift card ads on Facebook and Twitter that claim to offer exclusive deals online. They may be phoney cards. 	9 Holiday SMiShing SMiShing is commonly seen in gift card messages, where scammers pose as banks or credit card companies asking you to confirm information for "security purposes." Some even include the first few digits of your credit card number in the SMS message to fool you into a false sense of safety.	10 Fake charities Cyber criminals capitalize on Christmas generosity by setting up fake charity sites and pocketing the donations. 	11 Romance scams With so many niche dating sites now available to Internet users, it can be difficult to know exactly who the person is behind the screen. Messages sent from an online friend can include phishing scams, where the person accesses your personal information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details.	12 Phony e-tailers With so many shopping online at Christmas, scammers set up phony e-commerce sites to steal your money and personal data. 

Source: McAfee's annual report, 12 Scams of Christmas • Photos: Fotolia

TARA CORRAN/QMI AGENCY

Scams increase in intensity during the Christmas Holidays.

BE CAREFUL and BE SAFE

★
We wish you a Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays!