



Our family recently received a call late on a Saturday night at our home in La Mision. The male caller stated he was calling from the Ensenada Police. "Had we made an emergency phone call?" he asked. We said we had not, but he insisted that since a call had been generated from our number we had to pay a fine.

After some questioning, lots of confusion and our inability to understand what was going on, the caller got irate and said: "You don't understand! We are working with the cartel and your house is surrounded by men with guns. If you don't pay, we will come into your house and kill you!"

At that point we finally had the sense to hang up. The peace and joy of our family holiday was shattered by fear and uncertainty.

The upshot? No one came.

I reported this event at 2 police stations in Francisco Zarco, and at each the story from the police was the same. This was a crank call – they are made frequently, and usually unreported – by people from other states, perhaps people with cell phones in prisons, and by using random dialing methods. The callers are phishing for information and are trying to get you to send money. Often the callers claim to be a distant relative whose name you have to guess. The police usually cannot track these numbers.

#### **Advice from the police:**

- 1. Do not take calls from numbers you do not recognize.**
- 2. If you do answer and the person says "Can you guess who this is?" or if the call is not from someone you know or expected to call JUST HANG UP!!!**