



## Police Department

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**Fairmont Police Department**  
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**(507) 238-4481**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Fairmont Police Department cautions area businesses of counterfeit \$20 bills being passed in the area.**

**Fairmont, Minn.** The Fairmont Police Department is advising area banks, businesses and residents to scrutinize 2013 series \$20 notes. The department has been notified of seven confirmed counterfeit \$20 notes that were passed at businesses within the City of Fairmont in the last 10 days. While counterfeit notes are not uncommon, this is a marked increase and all of the confirmed counterfeit notes were 2013 series \$20's.

Detective Tonder advises that businesses need to get in the practice of really looking at denominations of \$20 or greater and verifying the security features in each note. It's important that area businesses are attentive when accepting cash payments but when there is an uptick in the area we ask for extra scrutiny. A counterfeit detection pen is commonly used but it is easily defeated if the offender has treated the paper.

A better practice is to hold the note up to the light and verify that the proper watermark, security thread (sometimes called a "silver strip"), and color shifting ink are all present within the note. All of these features can be seen with the naked eye and they are the most difficult to fake so they are most often missing from counterfeit notes. All the 2013 series \$20 notes passed in Fairmont recently were missing these security features.

If a suspected counterfeit note is identified the currency holder is asked to contact their local law enforcement. If the subject that is passing the suspected counterfeit currency is present in the business, call the police immediately and do not accept the note as payment. Please note the subject's physical features, vehicle description, and license plate. Do not engage in a physical confrontation with the subject and return the note if the subject demands it back. Tips to law enforcement about information related to counterfeiters can remain anonymous so please call if you know of a person(s) producing or passing counterfeit US currency.

If any area business would like a brief presentation for employees on detecting counterfeit money they are can contact Detective Tonder at (507) 238-4481. Businesses and residents are also encouraged to go to the U.S. Secret Service website [www.secretservice.gov/data/KnowYourMoney.pdf](http://www.secretservice.gov/data/KnowYourMoney.pdf) to learn more about all of the U.S. currency security features.

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