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## NAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

### April 16, 2014-Nampa Police Host Elder Abuse Investigation Training

Nampa Police and the Elder Abuse Project Task Force were hosts to a free training on how to identify and investigate abuse and exploitation of the elderly and vulnerable adults in local communities. The training was held in Nampa at the Hugh Nichols Public Safety building.

Two days of training were set aside and 14 local law enforcement and service agencies took part in the eight hour class. Some of the participants ranged from the Garden City Police Department, Idaho Attorney General's Office, Canyon County Paramedics, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare as well as some private care providers. Attendees received in-depth training on the growing crime trends directed towards the elderly and vulnerable citizens in the Treasure Valley.

“More importantly, we have been able to form collaborations between all of the local responders and service providers in the area” said Linda Wakefield, Elder Abuse Project manager. “For a long time, there has been a gap in determining who could provide the best service to the baby boomer generation. It is a large part of the population that needed everyone to work together to address issues”, Wakefield commented.

The training focused on identifying crimes and evidence that law enforcement as well as fire, paramedics, private care providers may see during contacts. Many different providers who have daily contact with vulnerable adults, the elderly or the infirm were given training to help recognize possible exploitation or mistreatment conditions.

The Elder Abuse Task Force is comprised of area detectives, the Area Agency on Aging, Veteran's Administration, Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, Nampa Fire Department and several other agencies who deal primarily with services relating to the elderly and vulnerable in the community.

To get more information on the task force or to report an allegation of elder abuse or exploitation, contact the Area on Aging at 908-4990 or your local police department.

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