KEEP THIS BY THE PHONE

Saw something online that scared you?

Your worry is fair. Most of what you see from real sources is still real. Here's how to check the rest.

1. **Slow down.**
   Fakes are made to make you react fast.

2. **Who posted it first?**
   A real person or outlet you can look up, or an account with no history?

3. **Is anyone with something to lose reporting it?**
   Your local paper, a TV station, the county office.

4. **Search the picture.**
   Press and hold it, then tap "Search with Google Lens." On an iPhone, save it, open the Google app and tap the camera.

5. **Before you share, ask "Is this true?"**
   If you're not sure, wait. A true story will still be true tomorrow.

6. **"It's AI" isn't proof either.**
   Calling something fake is a claim too. Ask how they know.

Can't tell by looking? That's normal. Most people can't anymore. Check who's behind it instead.

Free to print, copy and share.