

Good evening Neighborhood Watch members,

Tax season is upon us and tax scams come in many forms. Some are easier to spot than others. These scams come in a variety of different forms, including: standard mail letter, email or phone calls. Please take a moment to share and look over tips the IRS has provided to consumers.

IRS Scam Alert: Fake Letter, Email Phishing or Phone Calls

The IRS continues to warn consumers to safeguard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing your money or identity. Criminals pose as the IRS to trick victims out of money, and personal information.

Please read these tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be from the IRS. They demand the victim to pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit cards or wire transfer. They may also leave an urgent callback request.
- **Surge in Email, Phishing and Malware Schemes.** Phishing is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal information that can be used to steal the victims identity. Variations can be sent via text message or e-mails. These text messages or e-mails may include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS web site.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Scammers may use threats to intimidate or bully a victim into paying.
- **Do not give out any information.** If anything looks or sounds suspicious, don't panic.
 - Hang up the phone
 - Forward suspect emails to phishing@irs.gov
 - Get help about scams and how to report them at www.irs.gov

The IRS will not:

- Call you and demand immediate payment.
- Demand that you pay your taxes with a prepaid debit card or wire transfer.
- Ask for a credit or debit card number over the phone.
- Threaten to have you arrested for not paying your tax bill.
- Never asks for PIN number, passwords or similar confidential access information.

If you think or know you owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Deputy Jessica Hughey



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