

Wood Dale Police Announcement of Scams

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IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam>

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today warned consumers about a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

"This scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every state in the country. We want to educate taxpayers so they can help protect themselves. Rest assured, we do not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer," says IRS Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel. "If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and threatens police arrest, deportation or license revocation if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the IRS calling." Werfel noted that the first IRS contact with taxpayers on a tax issue is likely to occur via mail

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Treasury-Inspector-General-for-Tax-Administration) at 1.800.366.4484.
- If you've been targeted by this scam, you should also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "[FTC Complaint Assistant](http://www.ftc.gov/ftccomplaintassistant)" at [FTC.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Taxpayers should be aware that there are other unrelated scams (such as a lottery sweepstakes) and solicitations (such as debt relief) that fraudulently claim to be from the IRS.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to phishing@irs.gov.

Missed a call? 'One-ring' cell phone scam could cost you money

<http://www.nbcnews.com/technology/missed-call-one-ring-cell-phone-scam-could-cost-you-2D12044967>

If you pick up your phone and see a missed call from a number you don't recognize, you may want to think twice about calling back.

You could be a potential victim of the growing "one-ring phone scam," which the Better Business Bureau (BBB) warned consumers about last week. As in most phone-based scams, the perpetrators use auto-dialing computer programs to call phones all over the country.

In this case, the scammers let the phone ring once — just enough to cause a missed call message to pop up on victims' phones — and then hang up. Victims who call the number back are connected to a paid "adult entertainment service" located overseas.

Those unlucky callers are generally charged a \$19.95 international call fee up front, plus \$9 or more per minute for the unwanted "service." (In some cases the scammers charge only a few bucks to the victim's bill to avoid suspicion.)

The BBB said the scam calls usually come from outside the United States, including from numbers with area codes 268, 809, 876, 284 and 473.

The BBB recommended that consumers ignore incoming or missed calls from out-of-state phone numbers that they don't recognize, and carefully check cell phone bills.

If you're really tempted to call back that number, at least pop the digits into Google first. Sites like whocalled.us track complaints and questions about calls from specific numbers, while other online directories can tell in which town and state the phone number is registered.