

Phone Scam

It seems Citizens in the greater Wolfeboro have been receiving “very aggressive” threatening phone calls from persons purporting to be IRS Agents claiming that back taxes are owed. In each of the phone call incidents, the callers have been reported as having very heavy Pakistani or East Indian accents. The IRS has been contacted and the below represents information posted onto their web page warning of the same tactics. IF your respective media outlets could advise the general public of this attempt to “SCAM” citizens, this would be very helpful and together hopefully we can prevent some from being victimized. Thank-you in advance for your assistance and cooperation in “getting the word out.”

This is from the IRS website <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>

IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

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.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an “urgent” callback request.

Note that the IRS will never:

- 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill;
- 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe;
- 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card;
- 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

For more details on this ongoing scam, see:

- IR-2014-105, Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Unveils New Video to Warn Taxpayers
- Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-18, Five Easy Ways to Spot a Scam Phone Call
- IR-2014-84, Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Identifies Five Easy Ways to Spot Suspicious Calls
- IR-2014-81, IRS Repeats Warning about Phone Scams
- Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-17, IRS Updates Phone Scams Warning
- IR-2014-53, IRS Reiterates Warning of Pervasive Telephone Scam
- Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-10, IRS Renews Phone Scam Warning
- IR-2013-84, IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam