

Phone Scam Targeting Taxpayers

There is reportedly a sophisticated telephone scam which seeks to defraud Americans by making them believe they owe money to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Please read the following information carefully to protect yourself against this fraud.

About the scam:

People claiming to work for the IRS are calling taxpayers and saying they owe money to the IRS which must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. Those who refuse to cooperate with these demands are then threatened with arrest or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller will become hostile and insulting.

Other characteristics of the scam:

- Caller will use fake, common-sounding names and may give an IRS badge number
- Caller may be able to recite the last four digits of the target's Social Security Number
- Phone call may come from a fake number that appears on caller ID as a toll-free IRS phone line
- You may receive a fake IRS email that is used by the caller to support their false claims
- Those who receive the call will hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call center
- After threatening arrest or license suspension, scammers will hang up and others may call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID will reflect that location to support their false claims

Be aware that the IRS will never ask for credit card information over the telephone or request a pre-paid debt card or wire transfer. Correspondence from the IRS regarding a tax issue is most likely to first occur via U.S. mail.

What to do if you are targeted by this scam:

If you receive a call of this nature, please report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Their number is 800-366-4484. Their website can be found [here](#).

Victims of this scam are instructed to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by using their online "FTC Complaint Assistant" [form](#). Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments.