

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

IS THAT CALL REALLY FROM THE TAX MAN?

It is now tax season! But how do you protect from becoming a victim of a tax fraud scheme?

According to J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, “[i]t is critical that all taxpayers continue to be wary of unsolicited telephone calls from individuals claiming to be IRS employees... This scam, which is international in nature, has proven to be the largest scam of its kind that we have ever seen. The callers are aggressive, ... relentless and ... ruthless ... Once they have your attention, they will say anything to con you out of your hard-earned cash.”

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, this is what you can do to protect against fraud:

- ◆ If you owe Federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- ◆ If you don't owe taxes, fill out the “IRS Impersonation scam” form on the Treasury Inspector General Tax Administration’s (“TIGTA”) website, www.treasury.gov/tigta or call TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
- ◆ You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>. Add “IRS Telephone Scam” to the comments in your complaint.
- ◆ If you were contacted by telephone, report the telephone number via email to phishing@irs.gov (Subject: "IRS Phone Scam"). The numbers are tracked by investigators, which may lead to arrests and prosecutions.

Check out

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>
for additional information in IRS scams!

WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission) at 1.855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

International fraud scheme? International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) at www.econsumer.gov

Telephone or online fraud scheme? Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service at 1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?
Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597

MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947

Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492