

IRS Phone Scam

The Internal Revenue Service issued an alert providing taxpayers with tips to protect themselves from telephone scams.

The caller usually demands money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing your private information. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They may know a lot about you, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. If you do not answer, they often leave an "urgent" callback request.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be an IRS employee, NEVER give out any personal information about yourself such as social security number, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, debit card numbers or any type of prepaid credit card numbers.

Here are 5 things that the fake IRS employee may ask that a real IRS employee would not.

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the IRS call about taxes owed without first having mailed 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 a credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Also remember, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue.

If you receive one of these calls, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General or Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484 or visit their website at www.tigta.gov.