

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TAX SCAMS THIS FILING SEASON

Tax scams are a growing epidemic in which fraudsters use convincing and aggressive schemes to obtain personal and financial information that may be used to steal your identity and file fraudulent tax returns.



CALLERS

- claim to be an IRS employee, provide false badge or case number, and alter caller ID to appear as the IRS.
- may already know the last 4 digits of your SSN.
- aggressively demand payment, sometimes by gift card or wire transfer, and may threaten to arrest if you don't pay.

EMAILS

- appear to be from the IRS.
- request you "update your IRS e-file" by following a link to a bogus website.
- trick you into providing information by stating you owe money or are due a refund.

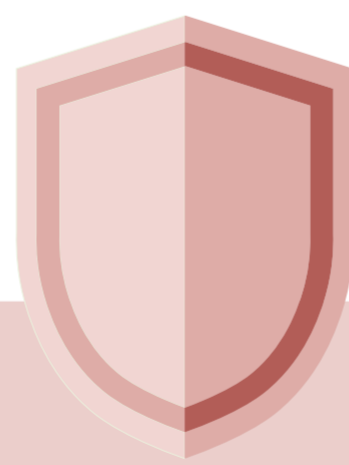


THIEVES



- use your identifying information to file taxes and claim a refund.
- use information obtained from phone scams and phishing emails.
- typically file fraudulent refunds early.

TIPS FOR PROTECTION



- Do not respond to unsolicited emails requesting your personal information.
- The IRS will never call demanding payment via prepaid cards or wire transfer or threaten law enforcement action.
- Report questionable emails to the IRS by forwarding the email to phishing@irs.gov.
- Report suspicious calls to the Treasury Inspector General at 800-366-4484.

Sources:
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-119>
<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>
<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection-Tips>
<https://www.irs.gov/uac/IRS-Urges-Public-to-Stay-Alert-for-Scam-Phone-Calls>