



INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) SCAMS AWARENESS

For comments or questions, contact the West Virginia Intelligence / Fusion Center by phone at 304.558.4831 or e-mail at wvfusion@wv.gov.

The purpose of this snapshot is to highlight the importance of and bring awareness to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scams, which are typically prevalent during tax season in the United States. IRS scams target Americans for monetary gain by impersonating IRS revenue officers who threaten victims with arrest and frozen assets if money is not paid immediately. At this time, the West Virginia Intelligence/Fusion Center has no specific information indicating any tax scam campaigns targeting the State of West Virginia or its citizens; however, all should be cognizant of various techniques used in attempt to defraud citizens.



Overview

IRS Scams often involve unsolicited communication to unsuspecting victims by nefarious actors impersonating IRS officials stating that victims owe money in taxes due to “issues” with their return. Demanding immediate payment.

Potential Impacts or Targets

Numerous Americans have fallen victim to IRS scams. No particular demographic is primarily targeted; however, their initial targets tend to be:

- New Immigrants to the U.S.
- Senior Citizens.
- English as a second language individuals.

Businesses should also remain cognizant of potential IRS scams. Businesses can be targeted through similar tactics and techniques.

Signs of an IRS Scam

The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers through the following channels:

- Email
- Text Messages
- Social Networks
- Phone Calls

The primary communication method for the IRS is the United States Postal Service.

Additionally, the IRS will never:

- Demand immediate payment using methods such as prepaid debit cards, gift cards, or wire transfers.
- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal.
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers, or other law enforcement.

Verification and Reporting

If you are unsure about a communication with an alleged IRS representative:

- Search the letter, notice, or form number at IRS.gov.
 - Scammers might modify legitimate IRS letters and forms.
- If communication is legitimate, instructions will be provided on how to respond.

Report encounters with fraudulent IRS officials by contacting the U.S. Inspector General on Tax Administration or the IRS at:

- Complaints@tigta.treas.gov
- Phishing@irs.gov

