

Scam Alert—Scam Artists Posing as IRS Agents

The IRS is warning of the largest phone scam of its kind that is targeting all taxpayers including seniors and immigrants.

Here is how the scam works:

Fake IRS agents call taxpayers claiming they owe taxes and must make a payment immediately or risk going to jail, deportation, or loss of a business or driver's license. These fake IRS agents demand payment using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. These calls often appear legitimate because the fake IRS agents are able to manipulate Caller ID making it look like the call is coming from the IRS. Oftentimes, these fake agents will know the last four digits of social security numbers or other personal information. They will often follow up with official looking government emails. They will also call the person multiple times putting more pressure on the worried taxpayer.

Here is the information to help protect yourself:

- Real IRS agents usually contact individuals by mail first. They NEVER demand payment by debit card, credit card, or wire transfer.
- Should you receive such a call, hang up and report the call to your local law enforcement agency.
- Never give a caller any personal or financial information.
- Contact the IRS directly for questions about your taxes or account.
- The IRS will never contact someone through email, text messages, or social media. The IRS will never ask for a bank PIN, password, or other account information.
- Always check with a loved one or trusted advisor before sending money.