



RIVER FOREST POLICE
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



COMMUNITY ALERT BULLETIN

INFORMATION OF INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY

Telephone Impersonator Scams

Tax season is here. While the IRS **will not** contact you by phone with threats for non-payment of tax liability — an IRS impersonator may. Since 2013, Illinois residents reported losing a combined \$3 Million to Impersonator Scams. Protect your hard-earned money!

Who they are:

- Someone claiming to be a person of authority (example: IRS, Social Security Administration, Medicare, Utility Company) stating you owe money on back taxes or other fees.
- Some perpetrators are in the United States, but there is a strong international component as well.

What they want:

- To play on fear and lack of knowledge on the subject to scare you into sending money.
- They demand payment by gift cards, prepaid debit cards, money orders or wire transfers.
- It's a scam, **government agencies do not operate in this manner.**

They may:

- Use a fake name or give you a “badge number.”
- Know personal information (last four digits of SSN, home address, email address).
- Sound official or give themselves official titles.
- Claim to have a warrant for your arrest.
- Call from a number with your area code to appear like a local agency.
- Send a phony letter to corroborate the phone call.

How to respond:

- **STOP! Do NOT send money. Hang up.**
- Report the scam:
 1. IRS Reporting – 800.829.104
 2. Treasury Inspector General Reporting- [click here](#)
 3. FTC Consumer Helpline - 877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)

You can view educational videos about impersonator scams [here](#).

Please contact Ofc. Ben Ransom #153 with questions at (708) 366-8500 x343 or email bransom@vrf.us