

Clarkdale Police Department

Randy Taylor, Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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IRS Phone Scams

Phone and e-mail scams involving the IRS continue throughout the Verde Valley and nationwide. Many scams involve phone calls and e-mails from criminals pretending to be IRS agents. The callers may have personal information from the victims they contact.

Common tactics include demanding immediate payment for back taxes, threatening to arrest the victim for nonpayment, threatening various lawsuits, threatening deportation, threatening license suspension, and demanding that taxes be paid a particular way (i.e. pre-paid debit card or with a bank account only). Another tactic is to say the victim is owed money from the IRS in an attempt to obtain bank account information. Be aware that callers may use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to sound official.

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The real IRS will never do the following:

- Demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call if you owe taxes without sending a bill.
- Demand payment without telling you the amount owed or allow an appeal.
- Ask for credit/debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten arrest or lawsuits.

Hang up immediately if you suspect a scam. Do not give out personal information. If you receive a suspicious e-mail, do not click on any attachments or links as the computer may become infected.

The IRS offers the following advice for reporting scams:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- You should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.
- Forward any emails to phishing@irs.gov and then delete the e-mail.

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