

Tax Related Scams

Tax season has officially begun. Tax season also means an increase in tax related scams. We are highlighting two scams this month:

1. Fake IRS Call

This has become very popular. You may receive a phone call from someone claiming to be the IRS. They will tell you that you owe the IRS money. They will be aggressive and demand payment through a money order or gift cards, sometimes directly from your bank account. They will threaten to have local law enforcement arrest you if you do not give them money. *The key to remember is the IRS will **not** conduct calls like this. The IRS will send notices of money owed via the mail only.*

2. Stolen Identity Refund Fraud

Tax refund fraud is one of the fastest growing forms of fraud. The fraud happens when someone files for your refund before you do. Unfortunately, all these fraudsters need is your name and social security number and they can file. If you are a victim of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission recommends these steps:

- ◆ File a complaint with the FTC at identitytheft.gov.
- ◆ Contact your financial institutions and close any financial or credit accounts opened without your permission or tampered with by identity thieves.
- ◆ Contact all of the three major credit bureaus to place a ‘fraud alert’ on your credit records:
 - ◇ Equifax, www.Equifax.com, 800-525-6285
 - ◇ Experian, www.Experian.com, 888-397-3742
 - ◇ TransUnion, www.TransUnion.com, 800-680-7289



2019 Citizen Police Academy

The Draper City Police Department will be hosting a Citizen Police Academy beginning April 3, 2019. The Draper Citizen Police Academy is reserved for residents of Draper City and citizens who are employed in Draper City. Preference will be given to residents of Draper City. If you live outside of Draper City, contact your local law enforcement agency for their CPA availability.

The 2019 Citizen Police Academy will be held Wednesdays 6:30 - 9:30PM April 3rd to May 22nd. If you wish to participate, please commit to attend each Wednesday night for the eight week program.

Apply online:
www.draper.ut.us/936/Citizen-Police-Academy

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

CyberBullying

Tax Fraud Continued

If your SSN is compromised and you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS recommends these additional steps:

- Respond immediately to any IRS notice; call the number provided.
- Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, if your e-filed return rejects because of a duplicate filing under your SSN or you are instructed to do so. Use a fillable form at IRS.gov, print, then attach the form to your return and mail according to instructions.

If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact them for specialized assistance at 1-800-908-4490. They have teams available to assist.

How to reduce your risk

Join efforts by the IRS, states and tax industry to protect your data.

Taxes. Security. Together. We all have a role to play. Here's how you can help:

- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Use strong passwords.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls, and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card companies, and even the IRS.
- Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.
- Protect your personal information and those of any dependents.
- Do not routinely carry Social Security cards with you and make sure tax records are secure

Tell your kids they can't hide behind the words they type and the images they post. Bullying is a lose-lose situation. Hurtful messages not only make the target feel bad, but also make the sender look bad. Often they bring scorn from peers and punishment from authorities.

Ask kids to let you know if an online message or image makes them feel threatened or hurt. If you fear for your child's safety, contact the police.

Read the comments. Cyberbullying often involves mean-spirited comments. Check out your kid's page from time-to-time.



If you would like more information on any of the material mentioned in this month's newsletter, contact Draper's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at 801.576.6342.