



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE

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PHONE SCAM INVOLVING INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TARGETING COMMUNITY

For the past several months, local law enforcement agencies including the Visalia Police Department have received several fraudulent reports involving the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Typically, residents receive a phone call from an out of area phone number warning the resident of an overdue tax bill and request sensitive financial information over the phone to satisfy the non-existent tax bill. Often time, these scammers use the threat of arrest to persuade the resident to pay immediately.

The Visalia Police Department would like to remind residents the IRS does not initiate contact with the public regarding delinquent tax bills via telephone. The IRS utilizes the US Mail for any such communication.

The public is urged to be vigilant with these types of unsolicited phone calls that often target the elderly.

If you receive a similar phone call, the IRS has the following guidelines:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.

- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.

- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.



For more information, visit:

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Reiterates-Warning-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam>

