

Busey wants you to be informed of security issues or scams that may compromise your personal or financial information.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

The IRS periodically warns consumers of scams that include fraudsters calling and informing a consumer that they owe taxes and they must be paid immediately or the consumer faces jail time, having their utilities shut off or their bank accounts frozen. The IRS will always send a written notification to taxpayers if there is an issue with their taxes.

The IRS warns of several characteristics with this type of scam:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what the IRS advises you should do:

- 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.

You can visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box for more information.

For information about scams and ways to protect yourself against scams and Identity Theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov.

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen victim to an IRS scam. You can also find information about protecting yourself at www.busey.com.



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