



Press Release – For Immediate Release – November 3, 2014

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Lower Township Residents Should Beware of Phone Scam

Lower Township officials are warning residents to be cautious of a telephone scam by callers claiming to represent the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.

An example of the fraudulent call involves a male caller who states he is with the treasury or the IRS and then threatens to issue a warrant for the victim's arrest if funds are not paid to the caller. Another example is involves a male caller who claims to be with the Department of the Treasury or IRS who states that there is a warrant for arrest for back taxes and that agents would be at your home in ten minutes and your attorney should be present.

The callers claim those taxes must be paid immediately through a credit card, pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer.

The Treasury Inspector General for Taxpayer Administration has issued a warning to beware of such scam phone calls.

The truth is the IRS usually first contacts people by mail – not by phone – about unpaid taxes. And the IRS won't ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The IRS also won't ask for a credit card number over the phone. The IRS will never request personal or financial information by e-mail, texting or any social media.

Lower Township officials cautioned residents not to provide credit card numbers or personal information to anyone trying to solicit funds over the phone.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment and using threatening language and hostility, hang up and do the following:

If you owe Federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.

If you don't owe taxes, call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484.

You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

Suspicious calls of this nature should also be reported to the Lower Township Police Department at 609-886-1619.

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