



Information Release

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Fake IRS Notices

Media Contact Keana Spencer

Spencer Accounting Group, LLC
West Allis, WI
262-358-8297
kspencer@spenceraccounting.com

National Contact: Nancy Kasten, nkasten@natptax.com, 800.558.3402, ext. 3.

Don't Be Fooled by Fake IRS Emails or Letters

West Allis, WI – Every year, taxpayers are bombarded with emails and letters claiming to be from the IRS and asking for personal information. The subject titles on many of these emails suggest the IRS is trying to contact you because they have a refund for you. These are commonly referred to as phishing scams.

Phishing is a term used to describe emails that are “fishing for information” and “hooking” victims. The content of these messages “lure” readers into believing that the IRS needs information from them. The IRS has issued several recent consumer warnings on the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers’ financial information in order to steal their identity and assets through emails and letters.

These scam messages are used to trick readers into providing sensitive information. Fraudsters typically request bank information or credit card numbers so readers can “pay their tax due” or “receive their refunds.” Unsuspecting persons are now victims of identity theft.

What do you need to know to keep safe? The IRS will *never* request financial information, passwords, PINs or any other sensitive information from you via email. The IRS sends paper notices to taxpayers to discuss tax account information. Never provide your bank information to someone via email!

If you ever receive one of these phishing emails, do not reply! Do not open any attachments—they might contain malicious code that could infect your computer. Also, do not click any links provided in the email. These websites could also give your computer a virus or malware.



Phone: 262.358.8297
Fax: 262.436.2450
www.spenceraccounting.com
5935 W. Beloit Rd.
West Allis, WI 53219

Keana Spencer at Spencer Accounting Group is an expert who keeps current on tax law changes as well as a member of the Top Professionals Accounting and Tax Organizations. Spencer can help you respond to letters you receive from the IRS. Visit www.spenceraccounting.com for contact information.

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