

IRS impersonators targeting Washoe County

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has received dozens of calls from the public reporting telephone scams involving aggressive and threatening criminals impersonating IRS agents.

According to the IRS, there are five things scammers often do, but the IRS will never do:

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

According to the IRS, fraudulent callers often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS is calling and will identify themselves by using fake names and bogus IRS badge numbers. The caller may sound convincing and know the victim's name, address, or other identifying information that is often easily obtainable through resources available to the public.

Anyone who receives a scam telephone call is encouraged by the IRS to report the incident to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800.366.4484.