

Waunakee Police Department

November 2014



IRS Scam Alert

The Waunakee Police Department has received recent complaints from residents regarding a phone scam, including three on November 17. The following message or similar verbiage is used:

My name is (different names are used). I am calling regarding enforcement action executed by the U. S. Treasury requiring your serious attention. Ignoring this will be an intentional second attempt to avoid an appearance before a magistrate, judge or grand jury for federal criminal offenses.

Residents are then informed that they owe back taxes and instructions will be given on how to pay. Calls have originated from the area codes of 202 and 321. Keep in mind that scammers often change phone numbers so a new area code may be used.

Do not give out any personal information or send any money to this individual. The caller will likely inform you he will issue a warrant for your arrest or some other legal threat if you do not obtain a money card or provide personal banking information. During some calls the resident has been told that the Waunakee Police Department will come to their house soon and arrest them if they don't pay. Further, the resident will be put in federal prison or extradited to Washington D.C. to stand trial. None of these things will actually happen.

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers identify themselves using common names and IRS badge numbers.
- 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 victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted.
- After threatening victims with arrest, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be the local police and the caller ID supports their claim.

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

Tell the caller you know it is a scam and hang up. **DO NOT provide money or follow the caller's instructions in any way.**

Report the incident to Waunakee Police at 849-4523.

Report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email. The IRS does not ask for PINs or passwords for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open attachments or click on links contained in email messages. Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov