



Office of Consumer Protection

Talk to your family. Talk to your friends. Talk to us.

Hey, the IRS Just Sent Me an E-Mail!

Careful. As the deadline for filing taxes nears, scammers are targeting Montanans with phony IRS or U.S Department of Treasury e-mails. The scammers are seeking personal information, bank account numbers and other information they can use to steal the victims' identity and access their bank accounts.

- These e-mails are often convincingly realistic, with government seals and intimidating language.
- Sometimes the e-mails will even ask the recipient to wire money in order to pay off "fines" or other fees.
- The e-mail may redirect the recipient to a website which is designed to look like a legitimate government website, but is in fact a phony site used by the scammers to steal more information from victims.

Remember, the real IRS never discusses taxpayer account information over e-mail, nor do they use e-mail to solicit personal information from taxpayers. The legitimate IRS website is www.irs.gov.

Don't be the next victim.

We are tracking this and other scams that victimize Montanans.

What can you do?

- Never send personal information in response to unsolicited e-mails.
- To contact the IRS, go to www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040.
- Never go to websites by way of links from unsolicited e-mails.
- Report all suspected scams to the Montana Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection at 1-800-481-6896
- Sign up to receive Scam Alerts – and learn more – at our website.



www.consumerprotection.mt.gov

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