



Salisbury Police Department
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Salisbury, MD 21801
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PRESS RELEASE

August 14, 2018 (3:45 p.m.) (IRS Telephone Fraud/Scam)

The Salisbury Police Department has received multiple complaints about a telephone scam involving subjects attempting to impersonate the IRS by way of residential telephone calls. Salisbury residents have reported that these telephone calls are received at their residential telephone numbers and typically received during the mid-day hours.

Upon answering the telephone calls, the callers immediately identify themselves as representatives from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The callers have informed residents that they owe the "IRS" money and if the debt is not paid over the telephone, there will be a warrant for their arrest. If the telephone call is not answered a voice mail message along with a telephone number is left for callback. The callers have stated that residents owe the IRS money and if it is not paid, they will go to jail. The caller requests the residents to obtain gift cards and then provide the gift card information over the telephone as a form of payment.

At this point, none of the recipients of the calls have made this payment or fallen victim to this scam. The Salisbury Police Department requests that the citizens of Salisbury not to provide any gift card information or personal information to include banking information to these fraudulent callers. If you are contacted, we request that you contact the Salisbury Police Department or your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

The Salisbury Police Department has been in contact with the IRS and confirmed that the callers are in fact fraudulent. Traditionally, the IRS will officially contact customers through the U.S. mail and not by telephone.

Research indicates that these and similar scams are being perpetrated in jurisdictions nationwide. The following tips are provided to reduce your chance of becoming a fraud victim:

- Do not provide your social security number over the phone or internet
- Do not provide account numbers to telephone callers. Legitimate businesses should already have your account number and information when they contact you.
- Do not make payments in ANY form to unknown callers. Legitimate businesses have existing processes for payment collection that you should examine carefully before sending money.
- If you have any concern regarding the legitimacy of a caller, do not re-contact them at the number that they provide. Utilize contact numbers that are listed on your existing bills or account documents to ensure that you are speaking with a legitimate company representative.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding a possible scam, contact the company directly, discuss the matter with a responsible party or contact your local police.

These investigations are on-going and anyone with information is asked to contact the Salisbury Police Department (888)SBY-CITY or Crime Solvers (410) 548-1776.

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CASE # (Multiple)

Capt. Rich Kaiser