



This Alert is brought to you from the National Crime Prevention Council and the Crime Prevention Coalition of America

SCAM ALERT TO CONSUMERS ABOUT STIMULUS AND TAX REBATE CHECKS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the U.S. Department of Justice are warning consumers about emails and phone calls from scammers claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). The IRS does not gather information for rebates by telephone. Nor does it send unsolicited e-mail to taxpayers about tax account matters. Filing a tax return is the only way to apply for a tax refund; there is no separate application form. Similarly, if you get an email out of the blue from someone claiming to be from the IRS that asks you to call a phone number or email back your personal information, don't click on any links. Forward it to phishing@irs.gov, and then delete it. Clicking on a link in an unsolicited email carries risks of spyware, pagejacking, and phishing - threats that can lead to the theft of your identity. The only official IRS Web site is located at irs.gov. Visit OnGuardOnline.gov/phishing for more information about phishing scams.

For more information, visit

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt033.shtm>.