[DATE]

For Immediate Release   
Contact: [YOUR NAME]   
[YOUR PHONE NUMBER]   
[YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS]

YOUR TOWN, IN (DATE) Since 2013, the Treasury Inspector General has received over 900,000 complaints of scammers calling and passing themselves off as IRS Agents looking for money. They have also recorded over 5000 taxpayer victims who have paid upwards of $28,000,000 as a result of these scams. This past tax season saw an exceptional increase in calls, and trends continue upward as criminals prey on anyone that will answer their phone.

Thieves are calling taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials using caller ID spoofing, fake badge numbers, and threats designed to scare victims into taking action immediately. While the law enforcement community continues to do everything in its power to apprehend these scammers, the best defense is to continue to educate the public in how to best handle these phone calls.

To join the combat, the Indiana Society of Enrolled Agents (ISEA) is proud to announce the “Just Hang Up” campaign. The ISEA is developing programs and materials that teach taxpayers how these scams work, and encourage everyone to “Just Hang Up” when they receive a call.

ISEA reminds everyone that the IRS will never call to demand immediate payment. The IRS does not ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone. The Internal Revenue Service also will never threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to arrest taxpayers for non-payment.

Potential phone scam victims may be told that they owe money that must be paid immediately to the IRS. When unsuccessful the first time, sometimes phone scammers call back trying a new strategy.

The IRS and the Indiana Society of Enrolled Agents encourage taxpayers to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. According to the IRS, their agents will not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

The best defense against these scammers according to the ISEA is to remember these three simple words, “Just Hang Up.” For additional information on these scams contact the Indiana Society of Enrolled Agents at Info@IndianaEnrolledAgents.com or visit www.IndianaEnrolledAgents.com for a listing of Enrolled Agents near you who will be happy to provide information on proper IRS procedures.

About Enrolled Agents

Enrolled agents are the only federally-licensed tax professionals with unlimited rights of representation before the IRS. They are licensed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. While attorneys and certified public accountants are also licensed, only enrolled agents specialize exclusively in taxes. Enrolled agents are required to complete many hours of continuing education each year to ensure they are up-to-date on the constantly changing tax code and must abide by a code of ethics

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Thank you,   
  
  
[YOUR NAME]   
[YOUR PHONE NUMBER]   
[YOUR EMAIL]