

# HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

1010 Darby Road Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

## Community Notice

### Scam Alert – Internal Revenue Service

HTPD has received numerous complaints about a popular IRS phone scam that has been occurring. It's being called the "largest ever" telephone fraud scam targeting innocent taxpayers. Callers are posing as Internal Revenue Service representatives in an effort to defraud you, and if you don't pay up, the threats are severe.

Residents have reported receiving calls from subjects who claimed that they were from the IRS and then would tell the resident that they owed a certain amount of money and if the resident didn't pay, "we're going to take your property." The fraudsters will make numerous calls to the same individual and claim individuals must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer.

J. Russell George, the treasury inspector general for tax administration (TIGTA), reports that thousands of victims nationwide have collectively paid more than \$1 million as a result of the scam. "The increasing number of people receiving these unsolicited calls from individuals who fraudulently claim to represent the IRS is alarming," George said.

The TIGTA warns the IRS first contacts people by mail, not phone, about unpaid taxes. It also won't ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer and it won't ask for your credit card information over the phone. Also, if someone threatens arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver's license if you don't pay, that's a sign it's not the IRS.

TIGTA advises that callers who commit this fraud often:

- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- Know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number.
- **Make caller ID information appear as if the IRS or local Police Department is calling.**
- Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- **Call a second time claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, and the caller ID again supports their claim of being either the Police Department or IRS.**

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, here's what to do:

- If you owe federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- If you don't owe taxes, call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
- You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.FTC.gov](http://www.FTC.gov). Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

HTPD encourages residents to be alert for phone and email scams that use the IRS name.

The IRS will never request personal or financial information by e-mail, texting or any social media. You should forward scam e-mails to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Don't open any attachments or click on any links in those e-mails.

## **Scam Alert - PECO**

HTPD has received numerous calls from residents reporting that they have been a victim of this scam which has become very popular in the Philadelphia region and across U.S. As part of the scam, customers are being contacted by phone and told that their account is in arrears and they will have their service terminated if they do not make immediate payment. The scammer tells the customer to purchase a pre-paid debit card, in random amounts, from a local pharmacy or convenience store. The customer is then directed to contact a number to utilize the card for immediate payment to their account. Once the information is provided to the scammer, the funds on the card are removed.

PECO advises that they will always contact customers directly before terminating service. Customers will receive a notice 10 days prior to termination, followed by a second notice 72 hours in advance. PECO will also contact customers by phone within 24 to 48 hours before service is shut off.

Since scammers began contacting PECO customers in late 2011, PECO's security department has worked closely with local police throughout the Philadelphia region to investigate more than 1,200 instances of scamming in the PECO service territory.

PECO offers these tips for customers to help avoid scams: If customers receive a call from someone stating they are calling to collect a bill payment for PECO, the caller should be able to provide specific information including:

- Account name
- Account address
- Account number
- Amount of current balance.

If the caller cannot provide this information, it is likely the call is not coming from PECO. In this case, customers should not provide any information, and call the company immediately at 1-800-494-4000 to report the situation.

Customers should never provide your social security number, or banking or credit card information via the phone, unless they have initiated the call.

Customers should not provide anyone access to your home who claims to be from PECO, or a contractor working for PECO, unless the person has proper identification. Customers can always contact the company at 1-800-494-4000 to confirm an official visit.

Finally, if you feel you may have been a victim to either of these scams please contact Haverford Township Police Department by calling 911.

*This is an Official Community Notice of the Haverford Township Police Department issued on the authority of Chief Carmen C. Pettine*



Lt. Michael Glenn  
Patrol Division Watch Commander