

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT 4/10/14 PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE:

Over the past several weeks there have been several reported incidents of a telephone fraud scheme in which a victim receives an unsolicited telephone call, from an unknown person representing themselves to be with the IRS. The victim is told that they owe money to the IRS. This is a modification of some telephone schemes that have been occurring in the Chicago area.

This scam is perpetuated under a couple of differing ruse stories with these common points:

1. The caller says a tax on unreported monies sent to relative overseas is due
2. The caller says the victim owes back taxes
3. The caller implies the victim will be arrested or deported
4. In all such instances the calls come from obscure telephone area codes (The most likely originating out of country)
5. The caller instructs the victim to purchase a stored value card. (Usually in amounts of a few hundred to thousands of dollars,) (The victim is directed to call back the phone number with the validation numbers of the stored value cards purchased)
- 6 In each case the victim receives an unsolicited phone call

(Once the victim provides the validation code number the offender is then able to withdraw the cash value placed onto the card from most anywhere in the world)

In Chicago this year (4months) we have several reported incidents, occurring in 3 different districts with victims ranging in age from 25 to 66 years old.

This scam appears to be similar in nature with organized crime groups operating out of Jamaica that have conducted similar unsolicited call scams in which they claim a victims family member had been arrests, fallen seriously ill, or threatened with physical harm. In all these scenarios the offenders have also solicited the victims to buy stored value cards then provide the caller with the validation number. Currently the United States Postal Inspectors have ongoing investigations of these telephone boiler rooms.

This most recent scam is likely timed with the current tax season and is targeting immigrants of middle-eastern or Asian backgrounds.

As a PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE citizens should be aware that

NO Government Agency will make unsolicited calls to request money for any reason!

NO Government agency will request a person to buy/place money onto stored value cards!

This appears to be a recent variation on boiler room telephone schemes.

These types of solicitations involving Government Agencies should be reported to the Inspector General's Office of the respective agency being used in the fraud. In this case involving the misrepresenting of the Internal Revenue Service,

IRS – Treasury Inspector Generals Office And also FTC- Federal Trade Commission
The United States Postal Inspectors Office
Your local police Department

