

Police Advisory

SCAM USING MPD NUMBER

December 2, 2014

Facts:

The Minneapolis Police Department has received reports from individuals who stated that they were called by someone who claimed to be with the IRS. In the phone call, he asked for personal identifying information. The caller ID showed the Fifth Precinct's desk number, which is (612) 673-5705.

THIS IS A SCAM. No police or government agency will ever call you unexpectedly and demand personal information over the phone.

We have so far only heard of the Fifth Precinct's phone number showing on caller ID, but the other precinct numbers can be found at go.usa.gov/6YRh. Each precinct's phone number is the same except the last digit represents the precinct number. For example, First Precinct would be (612) 673-5701.

The IRS has information on IRS-impersonation scams on their website:

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>

IRS impersonation scams have been occurring across the nation.

What you can do:

- NEVER give personal information to anyone over the phone or online unless you have initiated the call and know exactly who you are speaking to.
- If you get a call or email from someone who claims they are with an official organization such as a government agency or a bank, do not give them any personal information like your credit card number, bank account number, social security number, or more. If they give you a phone number to call to verify who they are, write that down but do not call it. Search for the official phone number of the organization and call them directly to verify that the call was legitimate.
- If you are the victim of a scam, report it so the governing agencies know that the scam exists and can warn others if needed. How to report:
 - If you lost money in a scam, report it to your local police department.
 - If you did NOT lose money, report it to the FTC.
 - MN Scams has more resources and recommendations.
- Report scams and find information on scam prevention and trends through the FTC and MNScams.com:
- FTC: Avoiding scams and rip-offs: go.usa.gov/6YXF
- MN Scams: www.mnscams.com/
- Trust your instincts: if something feels off, there is a reason for it.
- Become a block leader! Receive detailed alerts of most crimes in your area and forward to your neighbors. Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for more information.
- Receive time-sensitive crime trend alerts and more. Visit go.usa.gov/K3yd



For more crime prevention information, contact your Crime Prevention Specialist.
Call 311 or use the staff contact map at go.usa.gov/6Y8H

**Note that in this alert we are using a URL shortener in some of these links to save space and make it easier to type the links into the browser. Those shortened URLs start with go.usa.gov and they will bring you to the City of Minneapolis website or other trusted government sites.*