



News Release

Mansfield Department of Police
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Kenneth Coontz, Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

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No. # 76

Subject: Fraudulent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Scam Alert

The Mansfield Division of Police would like to alert area residents of a possible phone fraud/scam occurring in our community. We have received a few complaints in the past week of area residents receiving calls from the “IRS” advising them that they owed taxes and that the “IRS would sue them”. The caller then gives the potential victims a “regional office” number to call then hangs up. In some of these cases, the caller is an automated message advising the victim to call the “IRS Regional Office” and provides a phone number.

The “509” area code number of the “regional office” originates out of the state of Washington on the west coast, and the number in question, has been identified on the Internet as a number for a possible fraudulent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scam which is occurring across the country.

If you receive a call from anyone posing as a representative of the IRS, please use caution and do not provide your social security number (SSN) to them. If it is the IRS calling, they would already have your SSN and other information on file and would not be requesting it.

Due to the recent data security breach at the IRS, by hackers, which resulted in the theft of detailed tax-return information on over 300,000 taxpayers; we expect to see an increase in frauds/scams claiming to be affiliated with the IRS. Please be diligent and refrain from giving out personal information over the phone to unknown persons or those persons you cannot confirm, “are who they say they are”.

Please continue to report these types of suspected fraudulent activities and scams to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office by calling 1-800-282-0515 or by visiting their website at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov and clicking on the “Report Tips and Scams” icon.