



Columbia Heights Police Department

Scott Nadeau, Chief of Police



Don't Be Fooled by Con Artists Claiming to Be Uncle Sam

Our last crime prevention article gave basic tips on how to avoid being the victim of telephone scams. This article warns against a more specific type of scam likely to be used this time of the year. The area has received numerous reports of fraud attempts by people posing as the IRS. The swindler, claiming to be an IRS representative, commonly tells the victim that she owes the IRS money. The victim is told that she must pay her bill immediately over the phone with a credit card or a warrant will be issued for her arrest. Sometimes the criminal will use the victim's personal information to make the notice sound official.

There are a few things everyone should know about the IRS. One, the IRS will not demand payment without previously sending you a bill. Also, the IRS will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone. Finally, the IRS will not send officials to arrest or deport you for non-payment. **If you think you owe money to the IRS call 1-800-829-1040 prior to making any payment.**

"Cybercrimes and telecrimes" are on the rise, so please be cautious. Don't ever let someone push you over the phone into paying for something or donating money. If you have the slightest hint something is not legitimate, run it by a family member or friend. Always know that you can call 911 to talk to an officer if you think something is sketchy.