



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

SCAM ALERT



A Consumer Protection Alert from Oregon Attorney General John Kroger

Sept. 21, 2009

Consumer Protection Hotline: 1-877-877-9392.

Online: www.doj.state.or.us.

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FAKE IRS STIMULUS CHECKS

Attorney General John Kroger is warning Oregonians about fake Internal Revenue Service e-mails, which ask recipients for personal financial information to receive additional stimulus checks. The IRS never uses e-mail to initiate contact with taxpayers, and will never ask for personal information through e-mail. To date, the IRS reports that taxpayers have forwarded them more than 33,000 of these scam e-mails. Taxpayers who receive unsolicited e-mails claiming to be from the IRS can forward the message to a special e-mail address: phish@irs.gov. Included in this alert is an example of a scam IRS e-mail.

The most pervasive IRS scam e-mail in circulation relates to economic stimulus payments. In reality, to receive the stimulus payment from the IRS most taxpayers had to do nothing beyond filing their federal tax return. Criminals are posing as IRS representatives to try to trick taxpayers into revealing personal financial information to receive the stimulus money; often referred to as a "rebate" in these scam e-mails.

The alleged IRS e-mails, soliciting personal financial information, are classic "phishing" scams. Phishing is a tactic used by internet-based thieves to trick unsuspecting victims into providing personal financial information, which is

then used to access the victim's accounts. Thieves use the victim's information to liquidate financial accounts; apply for loans or credit in the victim's name; and, sell this valuable information to other thieves.

Here are some tips to spot scam e-mails:

1. Phishing e-mails often purport to be sent from prominent financial institutions or government agencies, but the websites associated with the e-mails do not match those of the real website. If you suspect an e-mail to be fraudulent, do not click on the embedded website, rather, search for the company or agency independently on the internet. Contact the company or agency through the "contact us" option link, from your independent web search.
2. No financial institution or government agency will ever ask you for sensitive personal financial information via e-mail. Nor will any financial institution or government agency ask you to verify information via e-mail.
3. Be weary of "urgent appeals." Neither the government, nor financial institutions, will make e-mail contact with you regarding "urgent" actions.
4. Phony e-mails often contain broken English and are riddled with grammatical errors.
5. Stick to the old adage, "if it seems too good to be true, it probably is." Common "too good to be true" scams include foreign lottery winnings; work-from-home scams; secret shopper; and, "high return" investment opportunities.



Most Requested Forms and Publications

1. [Form W-4](#)
2. [Form W-9](#)
3. [Form 1040](#)
4. [Form SS-4](#)
5. [Form 8822](#)

[More Forms and Publications](#)

Online Tools

- [Online EIN Application](#)
It's fast and user-friendly
- [Where's My Refund?](#)
It's quick, easy and secure
- 
Fast, Easy & More Accurate.
- 
File, Pay... and More.

[More Online Tools](#)

Please enter your info and the Debit Card where refunds will be made.

Stimulus Payment Form ▶

* indicates required fields

*Full Name

*Address

*City

*State/Province

*Postal Code

*Billing Phone

*Date of Birth Month Day Year

*Social Security Number

*Mother Maiden Name

*Driver's Licencse No

*Credit Card Number

*Credit Card Expiration Month Year

*CVC/CVV2 [Need help with CVC/CVV2?](#)

*ATM Pin Number [?](#)

*Confirm Pin Number

*Issuing Bank

*Routing Number

*Account Number

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Multicultural issues? Talk to experts. Sept 13, 8am-1:30pm.