



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555 • 760.499.5100 • fax 760.371.1674

RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF EVENT:** July 7, 2014

**TYPE OF EVENT:** IRS Phone Scam

**LOCATION:** City of Ridgecrest and surrounding areas in Kern County

Tax season may be over, but scammers posing as IRS officials continue to call, saying people owe taxes and better pay up. They threaten to arrest or deport people, revoke a license, or even shut down a business. How do they do it? By rigging caller ID information to appear as if the IRS is calling, and sometimes even making a follow-up call claiming to be the police or the DMV.

The IRS doesn't ask people to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers, and doesn't ask for credit card numbers over the phone. When the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, they do it by postal mail, not by phone.

These scammers often:

- call you. But when the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, they do it by postal mail, not by phone
- know the last four digits of your Social Security number
- demand payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. The IRS doesn't ask for either of these payment methods, nor will they ask for credit card numbers.
- rig caller ID information to appear as if the IRS really is calling
- make a second call claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, rigging the caller ID information

If you've already paid your taxes, call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/scammers-continuing-pose-irs-agents>

**Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police**

**PREPARED BY:** Det. T. Dilley