

**LOWER VALLEY ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

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How to Avoid Common Tax Season Scams

We know that tax season can be stressful. Compiling tax documents and filing your tax return is time consuming. Unfortunately, it also provides scammers with an opportunity to compromise your personal and financial information.

Beware of phishing and SMishing messages

- Scammers often disguise themselves as trusted entities like the IRS. Check the email address of the sender and never open links or attachments from untrusted sources.




Watch out for fake tax refund claims

- Fraudsters may send notifications of a fake 'tax refund' to lure you into sharing sensitive information. The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers via email or text message to request personal or financial information.

Hang up on impersonation calls

- Impersonators often call you, posing as an IRS official, and insist on immediate payment or threaten legal action. Any demand for immediate payment over the phone is a red flag.

Use secure banking methods

- Whether you owe taxes or receive a refund, ensure that you pay only on secure websites that begin with <https://> such as <https://lowervervalleyaccounting.com/>. Seeing a  symbol before the URL means that a website is secure.

Report suspicious emails or calls directly to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov or the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at [800-366-4484](tel:800-366-4484).

Sincerely,

Brian Rigatti
Lower Valley Accounting Services

