Aggressive & Sophisticated IRS Phone Scam Makes The Rounds

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the region. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, and can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver’s license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Or, victims may be told they have a refund due, to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an “urgent” callback request. The Amador County Sheriff’s Office would like to remind you to stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of the year, not just around tax time. You can also find more information on IRS scams by visiting the IRS web page at [www.irs.org](http://www.irs.org).

