



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

DATE: August 7, 2012
SUBJECT: IRS SCAM ALERT

An email scam recently went around in yet another attempt to illegally gain personal financial information. The text of the email was as follows:

This is in reference to your 2010 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return we seem to have some discrepancies with your filing. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) investigation has indicated that there might be some Undeclared Foreign income under your name. Please go through the guideline on FBAR below.

Guideline on FBAR **in the actual email, this was a clickable link- I've removed it here for security*

We have attached an updated account verification 1040 form that you will be required to fill and fax back to us within 24 hours. This form requires you to disclose all your domestic and international financial accounts. Note that under IRC 7201: Acts to Evade or Defeat Collection of Tax It is a crime to evade or defeat any tax (it is a felony to willfully attempt in any manner to evade or defeat the collection of a federal tax). A violation of Section 7201 is a felony and conviction under this provision invokes a maximum fine of \$100,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for a corporation, or a maximum imprisonment of five years, or both, and the payment of prosecution costs.

Fax completed form to 877-516-5629
United States Department of the Treasury
P.O. Box 32621
Detroit, MI 48232-0621.

Victor S.O. Song,
Chief, Internal Revenue Service,
Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI)

A few things stand out here that should get our attention:

- 1) I quote directly from the IRS website: "The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email or any social media tools to request personal or financial information." Enough said.
- 2) The email mentions Individual Income Tax Form 1040. If you look up the actual guidelines for this process on the IRS website, FBAR applies to businesses, not individuals, and it mentions nothing whatsoever about form 1040. FBAR has its own form.
- 3) The email indicates that the recipient must respond by fax within 24 hours, and then spends an inordinate amount of time threatening the recipient with penalties. I think it's safe to say that a fax sent to the IRS wouldn't find its way off the fax machine within 24 hours, much less cause penalties if not received in that time frame.

This one is easy- don't respond in any way to the email; simply delete it. If you need reassurance that the IRS isn't after you, consult the IRS website for more information: <http://www.irs.gov>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Sergeant Stephen Wilbanks
Crime Prevention Officer
Hall County Sheriff's Office
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