

Watch Out for Email Scams!

'Tis the season for frauds and scams. Every March there is a big upswing of fraudulent emails and web pages claiming to help you get your IRS tax refund bigger, faster, better. Unfortunately, all these folks want to do is separate you from your money!

This year we get the double whammy due to the earthquake in Japan, both in the form of fake "charities" and people sending out viruses and spyware inserted in photos or videos of the Japanese earthquake/tsunami.

What you can do to protect yourself and your computer:

- If you get email "from the IRS", DELETE it immediately – it is a fraud. The IRS is still in the Stone Age and NEVER communicates with taxpayers electronically; it only uses the US Postal Service to ask for information and/or money.
- If you want to assist victims in Japan by donating money, do this by going to the home web page for the charity of your choice.
- Don't risk typing in the wrong web address; use the search of your choice (Google, Bing, etc.) to find the correct web page.
- Only view videos and pictures of any large event (revolutions, natural disasters, etc.) on news outlet or other reputable web sites.
- If you receive e-mail, even from a friend, of pictures or videos of the Japanese earthquake/tsunami, delete it!

Provided by the Tukwila Police Department, Crime Prevention Resource Team,
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