DATE: March 16, 2016  
RE: IRS Phone Scam  
FROM: SGT. Robert Duff O.I.C.

With tax season under way, the IRS and police departments across the state are again warning people to hang up on anyone claiming they’re from the agency and demanding immediate payment.

In recent days, police have been reporting an increase in the number of residents who have found themselves on the end of a scam call.

The callers fraudulently claim to be IRS officials and threaten criminal charges unless immediate payment is made.

Here are five things the IRS says scammers often do, but the IRS would not do:

- Call to demand immediate payment or call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying

The agency recommends anyone who is contacted by phone scammers to fill out an "IRS impersonation scam" form on tigta.gov or call Treasury officials at 800-366-4484.