

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, March 6, 2015

MPD WARNS OF CONSUMER PHONE SCAMS DURING TAX SEASON

The Metropolitan Police Department is informing the public about a consumer scam where aggressive telephone calls are being made by scammers posing as IRS representatives. These callers usually threaten arrest or prosecution if money is not immediately paid.

Technology allows the scammer to “spoof” or alter the Caller ID to make it appear that the call is coming from legitimate law enforcement or IRS phone numbers. Most of these scams originate from overseas using VOIP phone services such as Skype or MagicJack. These services allow a scammer from any part of the world to obtain a phone number with any area code they wish. Because the Treasury Department and other Federal Agencies are headquartered in Washington, DC, many times the scammers choose a 202 area code to add legitimacy to their scam.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a tax bill.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a Greendot pre-paid card, or wire services such as Western Union or MoneyGram.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, immediately HANG UP. Under no circumstances should you engage them in conversation or provide any personal information.

- If you think you might owe taxes, call the **IRS at 1-800-829-1040**. The IRS employees can help you with a payment issue.
- If you've been targeted by this scam, please report the incident by completing the following online report: http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml.
- Also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their “FTC Complaint Assistant” at <https://www.ftc.complaintassistant.gov> (Remember to add “IRS Telephone Scam” to the comments of your complaint.)
- If you have further questions regarding this scam, please contact the **Financial and Cyber Crimes Unit** at (202) 727-4159 or mpd.fraud-unit@dc.gov.

» The Financial and Cyber Crimes Unit has established a list of guidelines for reporting identity theft and fraud crimes, which are investigated by the unit. Learn more at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/identity-theft-and-fraud-reporting-procedure>



Image: Michal Marcol / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

HARBOR PATROL ANNOUNCES BOATING SAFETY COURSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The DC Harbor Patrol is a critical, but largely unknown, part of the Metropolitan Police Department. The Harbor Patrol polices all of the rivers, inlets, and waterways that majestically surround our nation's capital. The 20-member unit encounters the same types of incidents that occur on DC streets including disorderly conduct, loud music, domestic violence, high-speed chases, and robbery suspects.



The Harbor Patrol has immense responsibilities: it oversees the marinas, regulates fishing and game, and makes sure boats are safe and meet safety regulations. The Patrol's main priority is to provide assistance if anyone gets into trouble on the water. The most common occurrences are capsized canoes or boats, caused by high winds, bad weather, or careless boaters. Most of the time, the well-trained team makes an easy rescue. There are a lot of roadways that run right along the side of the river. The most dangerous job that the Harbor Patrol faces is a rescue from a car in the water. The divers work against the clock and operate a four-man team—the primary diver; a time-keeper, who makes sure there is air in the tanks; a communications officer, who gives directions and uses sonar; and a back-up diver, who rescues the primary diver if he becomes entangled.

The Harbor Patrol also prepares boaters in the District of Columbia by offering a Boating Safety Course. This course is designed to educate boaters of the legal requirements, navigational rules, safety equipment, risks of boating accidents, and other issues pertaining to safe boating. Anyone operating a vessel on District of Columbia waterways is required to have a Boating Safety Certificate. The Boating Safety Certificate is issued to individuals who successfully complete the Boating Safety course.

- » Learn more about the MPD's Harbor Patrol online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>
- » Boating Safety courses are offered by Harbor Patrol throughout the year. To see the schedule and for information on registering for a course, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/boatingsafetycourses>
- » Need to renew your vessel registration? The MPD's Online Vessel Registration System (OVERS) lets you complete the process from the comfort of your own home... or boat: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/overs>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now

part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-843-5678 or reporting crimes online at [http://](http://www.cybertipline.com)

www.cybertipline.com.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT
mpdc.dc.gov