

### Steps to Protect Yourself from Tax Season Scams & Identity Theft

The IRS is urging taxpayers to be aware that tax-related scams using the IRS's name become more frequent at this time of year. Here are the suggestions the IRS offers that can help protect against scams and identity theft.

- \* Don't carry your social security card or any documents that include your social security or taxpayer identification number.
- \* Don't give a business these numbers just because they ask for them. Give them only when required.
- \* Protect your financial information.
- \* Check your credit report every 12 months.
- \* Secure personal information in your home.
- \* Protect your personal computers by using firewalls and anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches, and changing passwords for Internet accounts.
- \* Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you initiated the contact and are sure of the recipient.