

SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM CALLS

There are new ones every day and you need to be aware of them and what to do, or actually, what not to do. Many of these are very similar in how they try to trick you. These use telephone calls purported to be from a government agency, like Social Security, the IRS and even the VA. The trick now is to “**Spoof**” the telephone number of that particular agency. This is more likely to get you to answer the call and once you do that, you are more likely to get caught up in what they want.

The latest picked up just this morning is from the “Social Security Administration.” They are trying to get ahold of your brand new Social Security Number that you received in the past year or so. They are using tricks like “your new card is made of paper and we need to send you a plastic one,” or “it looks like someone is using your number and we need to verify if it is you. What is your number?” and others.

One, don’t answer the call, as the real SSA will not call you. Two, if you do, remember the real SSI will not call and ask for this information. Just hang up. If SSI need to contact you, they send real mail, which you can double check by getting their number and calling them.

All of the above apply to all other government agencies; The IRS, the VA, FBI etc. Do not answer them if you do not give any information. Hang up.

COMPUTER SCAMS

If you use a computer or a tablet/smartphone, you may have received calls attempting to get your information by trying to get access to your computer (a tablet or smart phone is really a computer). Most of the call say they are from one of the major computer operating system creators. One may go like this...

“My name is Joe and I am calling from Microsoft. We have seen that your computer is causing problems on the internet. We need to get into your computer and fix what is causing this.” The person usually has a foreign accent, usually India, and their English may be faulty. **DO NOT LET THEM HAVE ACCESS!** It will cause you untold problems. Just hang up, or tell them “what computer? I don’t have a computer.” They will hang you quick.

There are similar calls from “APPLE.” Also there are email versions with numbers for you to call or links to click on. **DON’T!!!**

MORE TO COME...

Check back periodically.

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