# **Tax Security Awareness Week Resources**

(Please click each heading for more information)

# IRS, Security Summit Partners Announce "National Tax Security Awareness Week" beginning Dec. 5

As part of the Security Summit effort, the IRS, the states and the tax community will share a variety of information throughout next week to educate taxpayers on steps they should take to protect themselves from identity theft and tax scams, as well as protect their valuable financial data in advance of the upcoming filing season.

### Taxes. Security. Together.

Our "Taxes. Security. Together" awareness campaign is an effort to better inform you about the need to protect your personal, tax and financial data online and at home.

#### **Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself**

Tax professionals are being targeted by identity thieves. These criminals – many of them sophisticated, organized syndicates - are redoubling their efforts to gather personal data to file fraudulent federal and state income tax returns.

#### What You Need to Know to Protect Your Passwords

You should always use strong passwords with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters. Do not use the same password for multiple accounts. The longer, the better. And change your passwords regularly.

#### Don't Take the Bait; Avoid Phishing and Malware to Protect Your Personal Data

In the cyber world of phishing, the sentences are "bait" – lures from emails, telephone calls and texts all designed to separate you from your cash, your passwords, your social security number or your very identity.

## **Phone Scams**

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! In recent years, thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams and fake IRS communication.



Contact:

Phone:

Email:

**Issue Management Resolution System (IMRS):** IMRS is an internal IRS system that captures, develops and responds to significant national and local stakeholder issues. When stakeholders notify the IRS of concerns about systemic problems or IRS policies, practices and procedures, analysts research and respond to the issues. For additional information, see link to IMRS. Tax professionals should forward significant issues regarding IRS policies, practices and issues to their Stakeholder Liaison (SL) Local Contacts.

You may prefer to share ideas for reducing taxpayer burden directly with the Taxpayer Burden Reduction (TBR) Program using Form 13285A, Reducing Tax Burden on America's Taxpayers.