



Neighborhood Watch NEWS

Visit us on the web at WWW.CanbyPolice.com

April 2012

Canby Police Main Number
503-266-1104
Monday through Friday 8-5

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503-266-4024 x222

Canby Police Lieutenant
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503-266-4024 x210

EMERGENCY
9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY
503-655-8211
(Clackamas County Dispatch)

TTY NUMBER
503-846-2720 or 7-1-1

TAX RELATED ID THEFT – A GROWING PROBLEM

Tis the season....for tax fraud! Over the last few years, the IRS and local law enforcement officials, including the Washington County Fraud and Identity Theft Enforcement (FITE) Team, have noted an increase in fraud related to tax returns. In fiscal 2011, the IRS reported more than 226,000 cases; a 20% increase from the previous year.

Typically this involves electronic filing by criminals who have stolen the victim's name and social security number. It seems hard to envision how this occurs but phony returns can be created out of phony numbers with just a little bit of knowledge and patience on the part of the criminal. This particular type of ID thief steals names and SS numbers of people who have passed away in the previous year, adults with mental disabilities, or just average hard-working people who have somehow had their identity compromised. In many reported cases, criminals reported false household employee income claiming the W-2 form was not issued due to the "employer" paying them less than \$1,700. They also claim refundable credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit and educational credits to generate more refund dollars.



ID theft rings all over the country have used programs like TurboTax to file the fraudulent returns. If criminals file electronically before the victim does, the IRS will reject the legitimate return because the bad guys have beaten them to the punch! Eventually, taxpayers can collect their rightful return but it can take months of work to clear up the mess!

The good news is that the IRS is aggressively investigating these cases and working with the Justice Department to prosecute criminals. They are seeking jail time for those who are convicted. They have also stepped up internal reviews to spot false tax returns before refunds are issued as well as working with ID theft victims. Some consumer advocates are asking that the IRS allow taxpayers to "turn off" their ability to file returns electronically as well as those of deceased family members.

Some suggestions to protect your tax refund:

- Try to file your tax return early in the season.
- Don't leave tax return forms or personal information lying around in the car or in your home.
- Remember that the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email (but criminals do.) Forward suspicious emails to phishing@irs.gov.
- Start digging deeper if you receive a letter from the IRS stating that their records indicate you received wages from an employer unknown to you.
- If you receive a phone call, fax, or letter from someone claiming to be from the IRS, you can check it out by contacting them directly at 800-829-1040.
- If you believe that you have been a victim of tax refund fraud, contact the IRS identity protection unit at 800-908-4490 and/or Canby Police at the non-emergency dispatch at 503-655-8211.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Canby Police is now offering fingerprinting services for your employment and passport needs.

Canby Police is expanding its drug-take-back program. You can now drop off your unused drugs at the Police Department anytime during business hours.

Explosion Tip Line, A \$5,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible. If you have information regarding the explosion please call 1-800-800-3855.

Taken from www.co.washington.or.us/Sheriff

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE AT WORK

A simple list of things people can do to stay safe at work.

- Keep your purse, wallet, keys, or other valuables with you at all times or locked in a drawer or closet.
- Check the identity of any strangers who are in your office. If anyone makes you uncomfortable, inform security or management immediately.
- Don't stay late if you'll be alone in the office. Create a buddy system for walking to parking lots or public transportation after hours, or ask a security guard to escort you.
- Report any broken or flickering lights, dimly lit corridors, broken windows, and doors that don't lock properly.
- If you notice signs of potential violence in a fellow employee, report this to the appropriate person. Immediately report any incidents of sexual harassment.
- Know your company's emergency plan. If your company does not have such a plan, volunteer to help develop one.
- If the company does not supply an emergency kit, keep your own emergency supplies (flashlight, walking shoes, water bottle, nonperishable food, etc.) in a desk drawer.
- If you work at home, in addition to making your home safe and secure, you should hang window treatments that obstruct the view into your office. You don't want to advertise your expensive office equipment.
- Review your insurance policy—almost all policies require an extra rider to cover a home office.
- Mark your equipment with identification numbers and keep an updated inventory list (with photos, if possible) in a home safe or a bank safe-deposit box. It's a good idea to keep backups of your work in a secure, separate location as well.
- Follow the same caution with deliveries and pickups that businesses do. Anyone making a delivery to your home office should be properly identified before you open the door. Do not let the person enter your home. If you own the company, take a hard look at your business—physical layout, employees, hiring practices, operating procedures, and special security risks. Assess the company's vulnerability to all kinds of crime, from burglary to embezzlement. Follow basic crime prevention principles, and work with local law enforcement to protect your business.

Drug Turn-in - No Questions Asked

This spring, the Canby Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration and Providence Willamette Falls, will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. **On Saturday, April 28th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** the Canby Police Department and its partners will hold their third National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at the Canby Police Department located at 122 N. Holly Street in Canby.

Last October 29, 2011, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored the third National Drug Take Back Day. With the support of Law Enforcement Agencies in our four state area of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho, over 21,000 pounds of prescription drugs were collected. These events have allowed law enforcement to safely remove these medications from our communities and to keep them out of our environment. With these outstanding results and the many requests from the public - you have another opportunity to rid your home of old, expired, and unused prescriptions. Remember, the service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

This month and throughout the year, your Police Department encourages all individuals and Neighborhood Watch Groups to play a role in making their neighborhood a better place for families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and communities. Although we shared this same message with you last year at this time, the information is critical and timeless.

Research shows that five important factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors can help to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

- **Nurturing and attachment:** Parents and caregivers who bond with and respond to the basic needs of their babies and young children lay the foundation for a positive and loving relationship. They also stimulate the growth of their child's brain and help their child learn how to interact in positive ways with others.
- **Parental resilience:** Parenting can be stressful, especially when parents are also managing work demands or unemployment, financial worries, illness, or difficulties with a spouse or others. Parents who have support and skills for managing stress will be better able to cope with day-to-day challenges.
- **Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development:** Helping parents learn about normal infant, childhood, and teen development will help them understand what to anticipate as their children grow and develop, and what types of support and discipline may work best at each stage.
- **Social connections:** For most of us, family friends, and neighbors form a network that provides social interaction, recreation, advice, and help. When parents have the opportunity to interact with, learn from, and seek the support of other adults, their children benefit.
- **Concrete supports for parents:** When parents are not employed or face other challenges, they may need assistance in order to provide adequate food, clothing, housing, and medical care for their children. These supports may reduce the stress parents feel in difficult circumstances, giving them more energy to nurture and support their children.
- **Call to action: How can we work together to strengthen our community?** Anything we do to strengthen and support families in our community helps reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. This month and throughout the year, let's focus our attention on prevention efforts that support parents and create healthier communities for children.