

# GLENDALE HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## SCAM ALERT!!

### E-MAIL PHISHING SCAM RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS CHECKS

05/08/08—The FBI warns consumers of recently reported spam e-mail purportedly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which is actually an attempt to steal consumer information. The e-mail advises the recipient that direct deposit is the fastest and easiest way to receive their economic stimulus tax rebate. The message contains a hyperlink to a fraudulent form which requests the recipient's personally identifiable information, including bank account information. To convince consumers to reply, the e-mail warns that a failure to complete the form in a timely manner will delay the issuance of the rebate check.

One example of this IRS spam e-mail message is as follows:

*"Over 130 million Americans will receive refunds as part of President Bush's program to jumpstart the economy.*

*Our records indicate that you are qualified to receive the 2008 Economic Stimulus Refund.*

*The fastest and easiest way to receive your refund is by direct deposit to your checking/savings account.*

*Please follow the link and fill out the form and submit before May 10th, 2008 to ensure that your refund will be processed as soon as possible.*

*Submitting your form on May 10th, 2008 or later means that your refund will be delayed due to the volume of requests we anticipate for the Economic Stimulus Refund.*

*To access **Economic Stimulus refund**, please **click here**.*"

Consumers are advised that the IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications via e-mail. In addition, the IRS does not request detailed personal information via e-mail or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

Please be cautious of unsolicited e-mails. It is recommended not to open e-mails from unknown senders because they often contain viruses or other malicious software. It is also recommended to avoid clicking links in e-mails received from unknown senders as this is a popular method of directing victims to phishing websites.

If you have received an e-mail similar to this, please notify the IC3 by filing a complaint at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).