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## IRS News and Updates

### IRS E-Mail Scam

Have you ever received a “notice of unreported income e-mail” from someone claiming to be the IRS? If so, delete it immediately. Do not open it, do not click on it, just delete it. It is not a legitimate e-mail from the IRS like it claims to be. It’s a phishing scam, which is a criminally fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

In this particular scam, the phisher is trying to get your IRS login ID and password. If they get this information, the scammer can then steal your



identity. The IRS does use e-mail, but they would never use it to get personal information from you.

The idea behind this specific IRS phishing attempt is to try to change your tax filing to show that you are owed a refund, and then arrange for the tax return to be sent to them along with the cash refund. If this occurs, and the phisher ends up with the cash, you will be held responsible by the IRS.

The IRS will never send unsolicited e-mails to you. The only time the IRS will ever e-mail you is when you e-mail them first and they respond. If you ever get an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS and you hadn't e-mailed them first, delete it.

Good rule of thumb: If an e-mail asks for any personal information, whether it is from the IRS, your bank, or an online payment service, chances are it is a phishing attempt and you should delete the e-mail immediately.

### Decrease in Standard Mileage Rate

Attention drivers: The IRS has decreased the standard mileage rate for business use of autos for 2010 to 50¢ per business mile, down from 55¢ a mile for 2009.

If an employee is reimbursed at 50¢ per business mile, the employee will not have to report the reimbursement as taxable income. However, the employee must substantiate to the employer the time and business purpose of the auto's use.

For autos operated in connection with charitable activities, the rate used for calculating your deduction remains at 14¢ a mile. For medical and moving expense deductions, the rate decreases to 16.5¢ per mile, down from 24¢ per mile for 2009.

For more information, contact Senior Tax Manager Barry Nagler at (631) 719-3354, [BNagler@hrrllp.com](mailto:BNagler@hrrllp.com).



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