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## Identity Theft Information Video Transcript

Identity theft is a widespread problem that can affect all Alabamians. In 2013 U.S. consumers reported losing over \$1.6 billion dollars to various types of fraud. This year, the Alabama Department of Revenue is taking extra steps to protect taxpayers this year by processing your return with new tools intended to detect possible fraud. In the meantime, here are a few tips you can take to help protect yourself against fraud.

### Tip #1

Don't give out personal information over the phone or by mail if you are unsure who is asking for it. If you are contacted, ask if you can verify your identity with information other than your Social Security Number. If you receive a suspicious message asking for personal information, delete the message and do not click any links inside the message.

### Tip #2

Do not submit personal information through unsecured websites or while using public wifi. Using public wifi makes your computer susceptible to hackers who can access and use your information. Only private internet and secure websites protect the sensitive information.

### Tip #3

Do not reply to emails from the Alabama Department of Revenue or the IRS that solicit personal information. The Alabama Department of Revenue and IRS would never solicit this type of information via email. If you receive this type of message, delete it, and don't click any links inside of it.

### Tip #4

Protect your paper financial documents. Store your financial documents in a secure location at your home or office such as a safe or lockbox. When ready to dispose of documents, be sure to shred them first.

### Tip #5

Remember to change passwords frequently and keep passwords private. For online accounts, your password is your only protection. Create strong passwords using letters, numbers, and symbols. Do not use your username as your password and do not include personal information such as name, date of birth, or phone number. Keep your passwords private and change them frequently.

We hope these tips on protecting your identity have been helpful. If you believe you have been the victim of identity theft, please contact the IRS immediately. You can contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit toll free at 1-800-908-4490.

For additional information, visit [revenue.alabama.gov/idtheft](http://revenue.alabama.gov/idtheft).