

# COMMONWEALTH FUSION CENTER



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## Scam Alert

### Police Telephone Numbers Spoofed

(U) Caller ID Spoofing occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the telephone number and/or name that appear in Caller ID display on a receiver's telephone. Malicious actors use spoofing to commit a number of crimes, including fraud and swatting – the deliberate misdirection of public safety resources. During recent events, offenders spoofed Massachusetts police department phone numbers as part of the scam.

- **June 1, 2015** - Two citizens received calls that **appeared to be from the Massachusetts State Police in Springfield**. The caller had a foreign accent and attempted to extort money by claiming the people called were the subject of federal investigations.
- **May 6, 2015** - A Seekonk resident received a demand call that appeared to be from the IRS and a follow up call that **appeared to be from Seekonk Police**.
- **April 3, 2015** – A Dalton resident received a demand call that appeared to be from the IRS and a follow up call that **appeared to be from Dalton Police**.

(U) Public awareness and response to these types of calls is critical. People should be suspicious if an official from a government entity calls asking for money. The following actions are recommended:

1. Do NOT provide personal information during the call
2. If you ask for a callback telephone number from the scammer, record the number but do NOT call it
3. Hang up
4. Use a reliable source to look up the telephone number for the entity and call the entity directly
5. Report the incident to local police and the FCC (1-888-225-5322/fcc.gov)

(U) Police are asked to continue their efforts to generate public awareness. Detail how and when agencies will directly contact residents. Use a variety of media and direct contact to educate residents about Caller ID Spoofing and recent events. Report incidents to the Commonwealth Fusion Center.

(U) This brief can be redistributed to the public.