



JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Consumer Protection

FRANCINE A. GIANI
Executive Director

THAD LEVAR
Deputy Director

KEVIN V. OLSEN
Director, Division of Consumer Protection

April 7, 2009

MEDIA ALERT

Consumer Protection Issues Alert on "Department of Treasury" Email Scam

(For immediate release)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce announced today that Utah citizens need to be aware of a new phishing email scam that uses the "Department of the Treasury" to trick recipients into entering personal account information for an alleged tax refund. The email states that the Treasury Department has reviewed the recipients' fiscal activity and has determined that they are eligible for a tax refund of \$189.60. The email then directs the computer user to click on a link to submit a tax refund request which then asks them to enter their account number and related personal financial information. An investigator from the Utah Division of Consumer Protection traced the email as originating out of Copenhagen and verified it as being fraudulent.

"Don't be fooled by the latest attempt by scam artists to steal your hard earned money!" said Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, "Remember, the government will never contact you through email for a tax refund or ask you to enter account information."

For more information on how to protect yourself from consumer scams and fraud, log on to www.consumerprotection.utah.gov. If you have a question about a possible scam or consumer complaint, contact the Division of Consumer Protection at (801) 530-6601.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Bolton

Public Information Officer

Utah Department of Commerce

(801) 530-6646 office

(801) 652-8322 cell