

Emailing W-2 or private individual data?

Stop. Connect. Confirm.

Criminals are targeting human resources and financial professionals across Minnesota with a new phishing scheme. Don't fall victim.



Stop.

If you get an email asking you to send employee W-2 or other private/sensitive information, stop to confirm if the request is legitimate before you hit send.



Connect. Confirm.

Criminals have perfected techniques to trick you into thinking an email is coming from a person you work with. Don't fall victim to this scam.

Connect with the person who sent you the request by phone or by walking over to see them. Do not respond to the email to confirm the sender's request. The sender could be a criminal, disguising their identity with a fake email address.

If you confirm a legitimate request, take steps to protect the information before you send it.

If you've been targeted...

If you think you've been targeted by this scam:

- Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov and place W-2 Scam in the subject line.
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If you've been a victim of this scam and your W-2 has been stolen:

- Review the recommended actions by the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov or the IRS at www.irs.gov/identitytheft.
- File a Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit if your tax return gets rejected because of a duplicate Social Security number or if instructed to do so by the Internal Revenue Service.

If you sent W-2 or private individual data to an unauthorized third party, contact StateAlert@taxadmin.org.

For more information on how Minnesota is working to protect taxpayers, visit our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us and search for Identity Theft.