

# EIN NUMBERS

## A KEY COMPONENT OF BUSINESS TAX FRAUD



**CRITICAL OPS** LLC

### What is an EIN?

*An Employer Identification Number (EIN) is also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number and is used to identify a business entity. It is in essence like a business's SSN, except for the fact that it is available to the public.*

*Access to EIN's is quite simple. They can be found through local or federal registration forms, business credit reports, and payroll or accounting departments.*

### EIN Fraud

*With access to an EIN, a falsified return can be filed. The IRS does not begin to receive and match employer-reported wage and withholding information until after the January 31st W-2 deadline. This enables criminals to get away with stolen funds prior to anyone's knowledge of the incident.*

*In the 2011 tax year, TIGTA discovered 767,071 e-filed individual tax returns with fraudulent refunds from falsely reported wages and withholdings using 277,624 stolen EINs.*



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## Suspect Tax Fraud?

- ***Determine who needs access to the company's EIN.***
- ***Start with a police report.***
- ***File a formal affidavit.***
- ***Report suspected identity theft through the IRS's business helpline at 800-829-4933.***
- ***Email [dataloss@irs.gov](mailto:dataloss@irs.gov) to notify the IRS of a suspected data breach.***
- ***Notify affected clients and partners.***
- ***Place a fraud alert on a business credit report.***