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**The Identity Theft Resource Center Predicts Tax-Related Identity Theft Will be on the Rise
in 2014**

Fellowes, Inc. and the Identity Theft Resource Center Partner to Provide Education on the Topic

ITASCA, III. (March 13, 2014) – Tax-related identity theft has been on the rise for years and the ITRC predicts it won't be slowing down in 2014.

The Javelin Strategy & Research 2014 Identity Fraud Report found incidences of identity theft rose to 13.1 million people in 2013, which is the second highest number in eleven years. And according to the ITRC, tax-related identity theft is one of the main drivers of growth in the overall rate of identity theft. The percentage of tax-related identity theft cases reported to the ITRC's victim call center more than doubled over the last five years.

It was revealed in the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book that over the past four years, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have consistently reported high rates of government-related identity theft. In 2013, these states reported approximately half of their overall identity theft complaints were linked to this type of crime. West Virginia's identity theft complaints soared from 9 percent in 2010 to 44 percent (tied with Alabama) in 2013. According to the ITRC, states with larger populations of elderly individuals, military members and increased levels of organized financial crime typically report higher incidences of tax-related identity theft.

Information used to prepare taxes, such as W2 forms and receipts is a treasure trove for identity thieves, making the crime especially prevalent this time of year. As these documents change hands, special care must be taken to protect personal information, whether electronic or paper. By the time tax-related identity theft is discovered, it generally cannot be traced back to the personal information's exact source of origin, which makes 360 prevention tactics even more important.

The ITRC recommends these tips for preventing tax season-related identity theft:

- File your taxes as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the more time an identity thief has to file a return for you
- Protect your computers and mobile devices with firewalls, anti-virus software and complex passwords

- Don't carry your Social Security card or any other documents with your Social Security number with you
- Order a copy of your free annual credit report from each of the three credit reporting agencies. Stagger these requests throughout the year
- Shred all no-longer needed tax-related documents that contain sensitive information with a cross-cut shredder. Documents include receipts, W2 forms and tax preparer invoices

Fellowes, Inc., a corporate sponsor of the ITRC, is partnering with the organization to educate consumers about the growing threat of identity theft during tax season. "One of the easiest ways to prevent the crime is by immediately shredding no-longer needed confidential documents," said Nancy Heaton, Director of Global Marketing, Business Machines, Fellowes, Inc. "Fellowes offers a variety of shredders to suit every home office need that are perfect for tax season."

Fellowes' newest home shredder, the 73Ci offers innovative technologies and features including:

- **Cross-Cut blades** that destroy 12 sheets of paper into approximately 397 particles per sheet, making it extremely difficult to reassemble
- **100% Jam Proof System** that eliminates paper jams and powers through tough jobs
- **SafeSense® technology** which automatically stops shredding when hands touch the paper opening

Be proactive and help protect your identity with Fellowes' 73Ci shredder, which is available at office superstores and their online counterparts. Visit www.fellowes.com for more information.

About Fellowes, Inc.

Fellowes, Inc. offers an extensive range of products to equip the home and workspace, including paper shredders, air purifiers, binders, laminators, desktop accessories and record storage solutions. Founded in 1917 by Harry Fellowes and headquartered in Itasca, Illinois, Fellowes, Inc. employs more than 1,200 people throughout the world and has operations in 20 countries. Fellowes products are now readily available in over 100 countries across the globe. For more information, visit www.fellowes.com.

About the ITRC

Identity Theft Resource Center® (ITRC) is a nonprofit, nationally respected organization dedicated exclusively to the understanding of identity theft and related issues. The ITRC provides victim assistance and consumer support as well as public education. The ITRC also advises governmental agencies, legislators, law enforcement and businesses about the evolving and growing problem of identity theft.

