

In recent days, there has been an abundance of misinformation and false social media postings, some of them with threats directed at the IRS and its employees. We are aware of these concerning messages, and I want to assure you that your safety is and will continue to be my top priority. You are exceptional, dedicated public servants, and I'm proud to be working alongside you every day.

Please know that we continually assess the security posture of our facilities. As part of this, we are conducting a comprehensive review of existing safety and security measures. This includes conducting risk assessments based on data-driven decisions given the current environment and monitoring perimeter security, designations of restricted areas, exterior lighting, security around entrances to our facilities and other various protections. We also monitor threat intelligence and have increased engagement with TIGTA, Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement officials so we're ready to implement additional countermeasures and notifications to employees if circumstances warrant. We're also closely collaborating with NTEU, and we share a mutual concern for the safety of those working and visiting our facilities.

During this time, it's especially important to remember security is most effective when conducted as a team effort; this is why employees play an important role in efforts to increase our own personal safety. As a reminder, if you see something, say something. The Department of Homeland Security provides a thorough description of warning signs for potential violence or criminal activities. Please remember that you must report physical security incidents to the Situation Awareness Management Center (SAMC) within 30 minutes of discovering the incident, or when it's safe to do so. Also, I encourage you to review the emergency and safety office recourses for more information about keeping you and your colleagues safe while at work.

In addition, if you're feeling additional anxiety or concern, I encourage you to contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This is a free and confidential benefit program for all IRS employees and their immediate family members, and is available 24/7 by phone, online and with a mobile app.

Your local Facilities Management and Security Services (FMSS) security sections will send additional guidance in the near future and provide important updates and information regarding the safety and security of IRS employees.

I am extremely proud of the work you all do across our agency in service to the American people. Thank you for your passion and commitment to fulfilling our mission and also for your continued commitment to ensuring the work environment is safe and secure.

For me this is personal. I'll continue to make every effort to dispel any lingering misperceptions about our work. And I will continue to advocate for your safety in every venue where I have an audience. You go above and beyond every single day, and I am honored to work with each of you.

~ Chuck