

## ALTA Rapid Response Plan for Wire Fraud Incidents

<https://www.alta.org/file.cfm?name=ALTA-Rapid-Response-Plan-for-Wire-Fraud-Incidents>

*Time is of the essence – every second and minute counts.  
Contact banks, transaction parties, and law enforcement immediately upon discovery.*

### Step 1: Alert company management and your internal wire fraud response team.

Contact your team according to a pre-arranged plan (group email; group text):

- Owner / Manager
- Accounting / Finance / Treasurer
- IT / IT Security
- Legal Counsel
- Others?

### Step 2: Report Fraudulent Wire Transfers to the Sending and Receiving Banks.

- Contact the sending bank's fraud department and request that a recall of the wire be sent to the receiving bank because of fraud. Provide the details for the wire.
- Ask the sending bank to initiate the [FBI's Financial Fraud Kill Chain](#) if the amount of the wire transfer is \$50,000 or above; the wire transfer is international; a [SWIFT](#) recall notice has been initiated; and the wire transfer has occurred within the last 72 hours.
- Also call the receiving bank's fraud department to notify them that you have requested a recall of the wire because of fraud. Provide the details for the wire and request that the account be frozen.
- If a client or consumer was a victim and your bank/accounts were not directly involved, your client or customer will need to contact the bank themselves but you may have helpful information to share, too. Coordinate quickly!

### Step 3: Report Fraudulent Wire Transfers and Attempts to Law Enforcement.

- Local Police/Sheriff: <https://www.policeone.com/law-enforcement-directory/>
- FBI Field Office: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>
- Secret Service: <https://www.secretservice.gov/contact/field-offices/>

### Step 4: Call the sending bank again to confirm that the recall request has been processed.

**Step 5: Inform the parties to the transaction (buyer, seller, real estate agents, broker, attorneys, underwriter, notary, etc.) using known, trusted, phone numbers for verbal verification.**

If you're unsure about what to say, here's a sample: "There appears to have been [attempted] wire fraud associated with this transaction. We recommend that you review your email security and update passwords and take any other appropriate security measures immediately. For the remainder of this transaction, all communication will occur using known, trusted, telephone numbers."

**Step 6: Review your Incident Response Plan to determine if you need to update passwords, secure hardware, and review email logs to determine how and when email accounts were accessed.**

**Step 7: Consider contacting your insurance carrier(s) and outside legal counsel.**

**Step 8: If funds were wired out of the U.S., hire an attorney in that country to help recover funds.**

**Step 9: Document your response using a Response Worksheet.**

- Customize this [ALTA Rapid Response Plan for Wire Fraud Incidents](#)
- Customize a Response Worksheet (available in [Excel](#) or [PDF](#))
- Assign each step to an appropriate person/entity
- Track progress through to completion or resolution
- Retain the Response Worksheet for future reference/update

**Step 10: File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).**

Visit [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) and provide the following information:

- Victim's name, address, telephone, and email
- Financial transaction information (e.g., account information, transaction date and amount, who received the money)
- Subject's name, address, telephone, email, website, and IP address
- Specific details on how you were victimized
- For Business Email Compromise (BEC) events, copy email header(s) – [Learn how](#)
- Any other relevant information that is necessary to support the claimant