

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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To Editors and Reporters: Sumter Electric Cooperative has issued the following consumer alert to the 170,000 members in its service territory. You may wish to run this item as a public service.

Consumer Fraud Alert

June 3, 2010

There is yet another scam being perpetrated against SECO members and customers of other utilities. Here's how it works.

Someone will call saying they are a representative from SECO and telling you that your power is scheduled to be disconnected due to returned payments from the bank. They will then tell you that to avoid disconnect you should give them your checking account or credit card information over the telephone and they will process your payment for you. If you refuse, they will give you an 800 number to call that simply refers you to another 800 number which is an adult chat line.

Do not give any financial information to anyone calling you on the telephone. If you have questions about your account you should call SECO directly and we will be happy to assist you. If you have caller I.D. jot the number of the caller down and report it to SECO. These are very clever criminals and in some cases the I.D. may even indicate that the call you are receiving is coming from SECO. That will not be true. And, you certainly do not want to call any 800 numbers these fraudulent scam artists might give you.

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