



SCAM ALERT

How to spot a scam

- ◆ A call, email, letter, or home visit from an unfamiliar number or person
- ◆ Asking for personal or any bank account information
- ◆ Demanding an immediate payment with a threat attached
- ◆ Only accepting a prepaid debit card as a form of payment
- ◆ Pressuring you for a quick decision and payment
- ◆ Informing you of a rebate you should not be receiving

Scam safety reminders:

- ◆ Your electric co-op, bank, or other utilities and organizations will never call you and ask for confidential, personal, or financial information over the phone.
- ◆ Always ensure that the number or email contacting you is the same as the contact information on your bill
- ◆ If you believe you're being scammed, collect as much information about the situation as possible and report it to your co-op immediately.

3 common scams

- ◆ **Scam #1: the prepaid debit card scam** Scammers insist that consumers need to pay their bill immediately or their electricity will be disconnected. They tell them to purchase a prepaid debit card and call them back, to a specific number, with the verification code.
- ◆ **Scam #2: false rebate** Scammers inform consumers that they have a \$25 rebate on their monthly *Ohio Cooperative Living* subscription. The scammers say they need consumers' bank account information to transfer the rebate.
- ◆ **Scam #3: Google scam** A Google Calendar invitation pops up in your inbox. It claims that it is a "Good Calendar" and has the subject line, "Your electric bill is available."

#ConsumerAwareness #ScamSafety