

ESFI Recognizes Utility Scams Awareness Day

Utility Scams Awareness Day educates consumers about how to spot and prevent utility scams.

ARLINGTON, VA, USA, November 16, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) recognizes Utility Scams Awareness Day presented by Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS) on Wednesday, November 16th. The purpose of the campaign is to help educate consumers about how to spot and prevent utility scams. UUAS is an association of over 150 electric, water, and natural gas utilities in the U.S. and Canada united to help avoid imposter scams.

Imposters can target anyone, but they often take advantage of customers who are elderly, non-English speaking, or live in areas that have been affected by a natural disaster. Scammers often pretend they are representatives of utility companies and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnects. [According to the FTC](#), fraud complaints were received from more than 2.8 million people in 2021, showing a total loss of \$5.8 billion, \$2.3 billion of which were from imposter scams. Many of these instances are electric, water, or natural gas utility scams targeting vulnerable populations.

“As imposter scams targeting utility customers become more advanced and harder to detect, it’s imperative to educate consumers of all ages about how to avoid them,” said ESFI’s President, Brett Brenner. “Preventing utility scams aligns with ESFI’s goal of designing educational resources to meet the diverse needs of a variety of at-risk groups.”

Learn How to Spot a Utility Scam with These Tips

1. Utility companies do not request payment, or other personal information, over the phone or through email.
2. Utilities do not ask for gift cards, prepaid cards, or money transfers as forms of payment.
3. Utilities will not contact you threatening to disconnect service or ask for immediate payment



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Learn how to avoid common phone utility scams
According to the FTC, fraud complaints were received from more than 2.8 million people in 2021, showing a total loss of \$5.8 billion, \$2.3 billion of which were from imposter scams. Many of these scams are utility scams where scammers pretend to be representatives of utility companies and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnects.

LEARN HOW TO SPOT A UTILITY SCAM WITH THESE TIPS:

- 1**  Utility companies **do not request payment, or other personal information, over the phone or through email**
- 2**  Utilities **do not ask for gift cards, prepaid cards, or money transfers as forms of payment**
- 3**  Utilities **will not contact you threatening to disconnect service or ask for immediate payment over the phone or email**
- 4**  Scammers can fake emails or phone numbers. If you have any questions about your account, **contact the utility directly** using the phone number or email listed on your bill
- 5**  **Have you noticed a scam? Let your utility know. This can happen to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors.**

Please **share this resource** with **vulnerable populations** as they are likely to be targeted as victims

ESFI.org  www.facebook.com/ESFI.org  www.twitter.com/ESFI.org  www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

Learn how to avoid common utility scams.

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5. Have you noticed a scam? Let your utility know. This can happen to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors.

Please visit the UUAS [site](#) for more information on Utility Scams Awareness Day and preventing scams. If you would like access to free electrical safety materials, including infographics for preventing utility scams [in English](#) and Spanish, visit [esfi.org](#).

ABOUT ESFI

ESFI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and the workplace. For more information and to use ESFI's free resources throughout your community, visit [esfi.org](#).

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EVITE ESTAFAS DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS

Aprenda como evitar estafas de servicios públicos
Internet Crimes Complaint Center estima que Americanos son estafados por \$239 millón cada año. Muchas de estas estafas, son estafas de servicios públicos donde los estafadores pretenden ser representativas de una compañía de servicios públicos y demandan pago inmediata para evitar desconexión de servicio.

APRENDA COMO IDENTIFICAR ESTAFAS DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS CON ESTOS CONSEJOS:

- 1** Servicios públicos **no piden pago**, ni información personal, por **teléfono o correo electrónico**.
- 2** Servicios públicos **no piden tarjetas de regalo**, tarjetas prepagadas o transferidas de dinero, como forma de pagar
- 3** Servicios públicos **no amenazan que van a quitar servicio** o piden pago inmediato por **teléfono o correo electrónico**
- 4** Estafadores **pueden falsificar** direcciones de correo electrónico o números de teléfono. Si tiene usted una pregunta sobre la cuenta, **contacte servicios públicos directamente** con el numero o correo electrónico listado en su cuenta
- 5** **Has notado una estafa? Haga servicios públicos saber.** Puede pasar a usted, su familia, o sus vecinos.

Por favor, comparte este recurso con **comunidades vulnerables** porque es más probable que ellos se conviertan en una víctima

ESFI.org [www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](#) [www.twitter.com/ESFIdetarg](#) [www.youtube.com/ESFIdetarg](#)

Aprenda como evitar estafas de servicios públicos.

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