



Please Don't Fall for These Scams!

Scammers are getting more and more clever as they try to separate consumers from their money. Redding Electric Utility (REU) wants its customers to be aware of the dangers of living in a digital age. The threats don't only come in the form of a phone call threatening to turn your electricity off if an immediate payment (often \$200) is not made via cash or a cash card.



Credit: iStock

Like/Follow/Share @ReddingElectric Regarding that phone call: REU will only call or knock on your door as a courtesy if your account has become more than 45 days past due and your utilities are going to be shut off. At that time, you would be advised that you need to call REU at 339-7200 to

discuss your account or make a payment via credit or debit card.

REU would **never** knock on your door or come to your place of business seeking immediate payment in cash or via cash card.

We typically communicate with customers using letters delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

And, for customers who do fall behind on their electric bills, REU is willing, indeed eager, to set up a payment plan with customers. All we ask is that customers contact us at the first sign of trouble paying their electric bill. **Please, call us!**

Beyond utility scams, there are numerous other ways digital thieves are working to steal your money, your personal information, and your identity.

REU urges its customers to be careful responding to Facebook games — those contests sometimes are attempts to steal personal information. For example, Facebook's "10 concerts" meme, which drew millions of responses, was an attempt to steal the personal information of those who responded.

And we recommend customers hang up the phone the next time they receive a call where the caller asks, "Can you hear me?" Answering "yes" could be used to authorize a major purchase.

As a community-owned utility, REU wants to protect its customers from scams, in and out of the utility business. It's part of our commitment to improving the lives of those we serve.

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Disaster and Fire Safety Awareness

Big fires start small. A cigarette thrown from a vehicle easily ignites dry grass along the roadside, erupting into a large wildland fire. A candle left unattended in the home burns down, igniting combustibles, and the fire spreads throughout the house. These are examples of how big fires started from small fires. In fact, all fires start from a small ignition source, such as an electrical short arcing and sparking, or from an open flame from matches and lighters in the hands of children. Many fires result from us forgetting about items left on, or in the stove.

The result of small fires getting big are tremendous losses, such as life, property, and the environment. Some helpful tips:

- Remember big fires start from small ones and the majority of them can be prevented. Take a walk in and around your home while thinking of fire safety.
- Ensure your smoke alarms are working to give your family an early warning.
- Make copies of important documents and store them at two different locations in case disaster strikes.
- Talk fire safety with your family and have an escape plan. Stay low and GO!
- Keep cigarette butts in the car (not out the window), to prevent starting a fire.
- Please help us in making this a safer wildland fire season got defensible space?

Defensible space: Before





For more information on disaster and fire safety awareness, go to the City of Redding's website at, www.cityofredding. org, and click on the Redding Fire Department's webpage under "City Departments, Fire."

Get Free Help at the Library!



With the end of summer comes the return to routine. To help ease the transition, we wanted to spread the word about FREE homework help and tutoring that is available through www.shastalibraries.org.

With just a Shasta Public libraries' card, students, kindergarten through adult, can access HelpNow, an online service that offers expert tutoring (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies) and homework help accessible anywhere. HelpNow's host of resources include a Writing Lab, a Language Lab, and an Adult Learning Center.

To use it just go to www.shastalibraries.org/elibrary and click the HelpNow link.

Do you know an adult who struggles with reading? Do you need to get your GED or HiSET? Or, do you need to update your computer or job skills? We can help. Call the Shasta Literacy Program at 530-245-7237. It is free and we'll work with your schedule.



in Clover Creek Park Preserve