

OPPD alerts customers about scam

(KLZA)--A second area utility provider is warning customers of attempted scams.

Omaha Public Power District is warning customers about scammers who are calling, posing as utility representatives.

Tuesday alone, the district received more than 50 reports from customers who have received such phone calls.

The aggressive callers falsely tell customers they are overdue on their bills or they need to purchase equipment. The con artists demand numbers from a payment card of some sort, and they threaten to disconnect service if customers do not pay quickly.

Unfortunately, this scam is not new or isolated to OPPD's service territory. It has been going on for years across the nation, and it tends to pick up steam several times a year. The latest round of calls OPPD is hearing about have been targeting both residential and business customers.

OPPD stresses that none of these people demanding payments or financial information works for the utility.

OPPD advises customers: to *Never* give personal or financial information to a stranger during an unsolicited telephone call.

If such a person should appear unannounced at one's door claiming to work for the utility, *do not allow them inside*. Always ask for identification or verification. OPPD employees always carry identification. Failure to produce identification should be a tip-off to the customer that something is wrong.

***Never turn off security systems* for any reason if a stranger asks. Any customer who receives such a request should call law enforcement immediately.**

Customers with questions about making a payment, or about their account in general, should always call OPPD directly.

Customers in our rural areas may talk with their local offices during business hours, as well. Outside of Omaha, customers should call 1-877-536-4131.

