

BREMCO Warns of Phone Scam

Written by Steve Frank

Monday, 21 October 2013 16:25

The scam tried on many Piedmont and Foothills residents to scare them into making quick money for the thieves is hitting High Country customers of Blue Ridge Electric, according to a release from Monday afternoon. BREMCO is telling the press and customers that thieves are calling and posing as electric utility representatives, telling the customer that they are past due on their bill and are about to have their power cut off. The caller requires an immediate payment, often instructing the customer to use an e-check or credit card for the payment—a payment the scammer takes right over the phone. The money is immediately taken from the customer's account, even before they have the opportunity to call to verify the bill. The BREMCO release says that scammers were previously targeting mainly Spanish speaking members, but they have branched out and are now targeting members from many different backgrounds. BREMCO is urging its members to be aware of this scam and never provide any caller with your personal or account information, and if you receive a suspicious call at any time from someone claiming to be with Blue Ridge Electric, they say feel free to hang up and call the local Blue Ridge Electric office to verify. If you receive confirmation that the call was not an official Blue Ridge Electric call, you are strongly encouraged to report the call to their local law enforcement authorities. Blue Ridge Electric urges its members to share this information with family and friends to help stop this scam.