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**ELECTRIC UTILITY SCAM: Imposters tell Colton Customers they owe on their electricity bill**

*Colton, Calif. — (February 24, 2014)* —City of Colton customers have received phone calls seeking payment for false electricity use charges. The telephone-based scam is occurring across Southern California, with reports filed by several other utility providers. The majority of the reports are from commercial businesses, but residents should be aware as well.

Customers report being told they have a past due electricity bill that has to be paid immediately or their service will be disconnected. Colton Electric Utility is advising customers to be especially cautious if they receive a phone call asking for payment. Customer service protocol is to call as a courtesy to inform the customer of a past due bill, however they do not ask for payment over the phone. This call is made after a payment notification has been sent. The customer service number that will show up on caller ID will always be 909-370-5555. When receiving a call, make sure you clearly understand who the caller is representing, and have them repeat their information if needed. Never provide personal information to a caller. If the caller refuses to give the information, customers should end the call and report what happened to police or to City of Colton Customer Service at 909-370-5555.

For more information on the City of Colton Electric Utility please visit our web site at [www.coltononline.com](http://www.coltononline.com) or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Colton-Public-Utilities](http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Colton-Public-Utilities).

*Colton Electric Utility was established in 1887 and continues to be committed to provide safe and reliable electric, water and wastewater services at the lowest affordable rates to our existing customers. Today Colton Electric Utility provides their services to over 16,000 residential customers. More information available at [www.ci.colton.ca.us/](http://www.ci.colton.ca.us/) or by calling 909-370-5104.*