## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ENERGY FRAUD

In recent years, we've seen more attempts by criminals pretending to be from Consumers Energy trying to scam people out of money.



- We're working with law enforcement to protect our customers. Your best defense is to be aware. Avoid becoming a victim.
  - We offer many ways to pay by mail, in person or over a secure Internet site. Learn more at ConsumersEnergy.com/ waystopay.
    - We won't request personal information or insist on payment in less than 24 hours.
      - We never demand payment using only a pre-paid credit card.

## 7 Common Items in Scams

- A phone call demanding payment within a short time frame.
- Threaten service will be shut off if payment is not made.
- Insist on a specific form of payment, like a pre-paid credit card from a convenience store.
- May seek personal or account information.
- May have an account number or what sounds like the proper bill amount.
- 6 May "spoof" your phone, making it appear as if the call comes from Consumers Energy.
- May provide an 800 or 888 number to call that is not ours.

## What You Should Know

- Do not pay over the phone using a pre-paid credit card.
- Do not give personal information or money over the phone to anyone you do not know.
- If you receive a call and believe it may be a scam, call us immediately at 800-477-5050.



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Consumers Energy employees and authorized contractors wear ID badges.

