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NEWS

"IF THEY'RE SAYING THEY NEED TO GET INTO YOUR HOUSE, IT'S PROBABLY A SCAM," HALTON HILLS HYDRO TARGETED FOR REBATE SCAM

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Halton Hills Hydro is warning residents of a rebate scam, where residents are being targeted to release their banking information.

The local utility company has been receiving complaints about callers claiming to be from the Ontario Rebate and Reward Association, and the client is eligible for a rebate.

The callers say that in order to verify the eligibility, they need to access the resident's home.

"If they're saying that they need to get into your home, it's probably a scam," said Kate Sweetman, customer care supervisor with Halton Hills Hydro. "At least one person

has had someone come to the door."

One resident came into their offices with the paperwork from the scammers fully filled out, ready to release their personal information.

Halton Hills Hydro was quick to notify the client this was a scam, and after receiving two other calls from concerned residents they notified police.

"This has been constant for the past couple of years," she said, noting that Halton Hills Hydro has been vigilant of different ways that their company name is used to target customers.

Residents have also received calls - which they suspect are coming from foreign call centres - claiming to be Halton Hills Hydro and if they don't pay

their bill, they'll have their power cut.

"I don't think we're unique," said Art Skidmore, President and CEO of the company.

He said that there was an instance in the spring where someone was falsely claiming to be Halton Hills Hydro, driving around in a truck that had their name on the bumper.

It was not a Halton Hills Hydro truck.

"Call us if you have any questions," said Skidmore, advising residents that if they think something is not quite right to verify it with their office by calling 519-853-3701.

Residents who receive a fraudulent call or text are advised to call the Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or email info@anti-fraudcentre.ca



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