



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CPUC OFFERS TIPS FOR IDENTIFYING UTILITY WORKERS

SAN FRANCISCO, January 24, 2008 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today reminded consumers of the importance of verifying employment of utility workers who request to enter a consumer’s residence.

“Recently, we have had a few incidents where unscrupulous individuals try to gain access to a home by claiming to be a utility representative,” warned CPUC Commissioner Rachele Chong. “Their aim is to rob the unsuspecting consumer when his or her back is turned, or by distracting the consumer. Consumers always should verify that the person asking to enter their home is in fact a utility worker by asking for company identification, and if anything looks fishy, they should call the utility to check whether it has dispatched a worker to the neighborhood.”

Before letting anyone claiming to be a utility worker into their home, consumers should:

- Ask to see identification. Utility employees carry identification and are always willing to show it.
- Call the utility at the number on the utility bill or in the phone book to verify that there are workers in the area.

If consumers are approached or visited by anyone claiming to be a utility representative but they refuse to show identification, consumers should refuse to let them in their home, and notify their utility immediately.



For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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