

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SCAM



It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics as

consumers have become more reliant on technology for work, school, and commerce. Scammers have noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone call or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if

you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. Our phone numbers can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, morgransou.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or use the Smart Hub app to check the status of your account. Remember, Mor-Gran-Sou will never call you and demand immediate payment.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers

can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Mor-Gran-Sou will automatically apply the over payment to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

We want to help protect our members against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 3 contains a line item indicating your 2021 capital credit allocation. The information shown on that billing statement is not the retirement, but the allocation.

This is the only statement you will receive concerning your 2021 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2021 allocation.

What is a capital credit allocation? This information is provided each year as an official record of your capital credits. Since Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative, at the end of each year we allocate all our profits (the money left over after all expenses are paid) to you, our member-owners, based on how much energy you bought during the year.

These allocations are called capital credits. Allocation means we assign your share of the margins to a holding account in your name. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for operating funds, and at some later date, paid back to members, as the financial condition of the cooperative permits. These amounts are not payable at this time and do not represent cash, but rather your equity in your cooperative.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

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Underground Line Locates

Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

Officers and Directors

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger

Directors:

Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Ryan Petrick, Bob J. Leingang,
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Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: JASON HELGESON

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

“Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it’s easy to forget all the necessary steps to take

should always be considered when working around these structures.

“Whether you’re purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor,” said Helgeson. It is very important that grain bins are a safe distance from power lines to help ensure the SAFETY of all farm workers. We want to make sure they go home after a hard day’s work to be with their family!

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Safe clearance.**

The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and an 18-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping and

when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

- **Moving equipment near grain bins.** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Mor-Gran-Sou reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you happen to get into an overhead line when moving a grain auger, please stay in your equipment if possible. Call Mor-Gran-Sou for assistance. Don’t assume the power is off, until someone from our line crew shows up to ground it out.

“If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin’s site, please contact Mor-Gran-Sou and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family,” said Helgeson.

Please LOOK UP Safety First. Thank you for being SAFE!



Jason Helgeson
Siting Engineer
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

SAFETY STARTS
WITH ME

when practicing safe operations,” said Jason Helgeson, Senior Engineering Technician.

Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations

drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly and consult your electric cooperative.

- **Filling grain bins.** High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it’s important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance

LANDEIS EXPERIENCES WASHINGTON D.C. ON 2022 YOUTH TOUR

When Wyatt Landeis, an incoming senior at Mandan High School, read about the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, he figured he would give it a chance and apply for the opportunity. Little did he know that a simple essay would end up as a trip of a lifetime and one he would never forget.

Getting to Washington D.C.

His knowledge, research and time he spent writing an essay won him an all-expense trip to Washington, D.C, to see our nation’s capital through the NRECA Youth Tour from June 19 to 24. In his essay, Landeis touched on the topic of increasing youth attendance at the cooperative’s annual meeting.

To read more about Landeis’s experience, check out our local pages in this month’s *North Dakota Living* magazine.

Labor Day Closing

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5. Line crews will be available to respond to emergencies and power outages by calling: 800-750-8212.

Please do not contact Mor-Gran-Sou on Facebook with outage information; it is not monitored 24/7. Call the 800 number to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.