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County warns residents against fraudulent phone water testing calls

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Someone is trying to convince Sarasota County Utilities customers that they are required to test their drinking water twice a year, and for \$50 each time, they'll be happy to perform the service. The problem: it isn't true, and the phone calls are fraudulent.

According to Sarasota County Utilities' Mike Misoff, residents began reporting calls last Friday, Aug. 1. A caller portraying herself as working for Sarasota County contacted at least one woman asking to come to her home to test the water. The caller even offered to send a female technician.

"Sarasota County does not require testing of individual homes, nor do we ask to come in to your home," said Misoff, who added that some residents are being approached with door-to-door visits. "Sarasota County does not charge customers to test their water. It is tested daily at the water plants and throughout the water distribution system."

Sarasota County Utilities also conducts required monthly bacteriological sampling at more than 120 sites throughout the water distribution system

Misoff said that residents who receive a call from anyone identifying themselves as Sarasota County Utilities employees should contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 to verify the caller's identity.