



Power Lines

A monthly newsletter from Columbia River People's Utility District

February 2009

Preparing for Power Outages

Even short power outages can be an unpleasant experience if you're not ready for them. Being prepared and learning what to do when the lights go out can help keep your family safe and comfortable while we restore power.

Before an Outage Occurs:

Keep flashlights handy, with spare batteries. Make sure all family members know where to find them.

Stock up on non perishable foods that don't require cooking.

If you have well water, **keep bottled water on hand**.

When the Lights Go Out:

Look at your electric meter. If there are numbers in the display, then you have power to your home. Check your breaker box or fuse panel for tripped breakers or blown fuses.

Your power is out if there are no numbers on the meter's display. Call our Outage Hotline: (503) 397-1844.

Turn off electric heaters, appliances and water heaters at the breaker.

When power is restored, turn these back on one at a time, in 15-minute intervals. This helps prevent overloading the electricity distribution system, which could cause another outage.



Lineman Cary Gray and Apprentice Jake Feakin replace a utility pole in St. Helens.

Turn on one porch light and one inside light. This helps both you and our crews know when service is restored.

Unplug sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, TVs & stereos to prevent damage from voltage surges or spikes when power is restored.

Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to minimize food loss.

If your lights are very dim or bright when power is restored, turn off the power at the breaker and call us at (503) 397-1844 to report the problem.

My Fair Lady Pageant seeks nominations

The My Fair Lady Pageant is held during the Columbia County Fair each year to recognize senior women for their outstanding service in our community. The pageant is currently seeking nominees for the 2009 My Fair Lady Court.

To nominate someone for the court, contact Nancy Harwood at the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), (503) 397-5655 or rsvp@opusnet.com, for an application.

Nominees must be at least 55 years old but do not need to be a member of RSVP or their local senior center. Nominations are due March 31.



24 Hour Outage & Emergency Hot Line: (503) 397-1844 • Email: info@crpud.org
Website: www.crpud.net • Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

Simplify life with **Always Current** Automatic Bill Payment

- Receive your statement by email
- Your payment is automatically deducted from your account
- View your payment history and electricity usage online, anytime





PUD Calendar Photo Contest

The photo contest for the PUD's 2010 Scenic Calendar is now open. To enter, send us your best shots of Columbia County by September 15.

Entry forms and contest details are available at www.crpud.net/community, and at our office. For more information, contact Libby Calnon at lcalnon@crpud.org or (503) 366-3264.

Photo by Tamra Parker

PUD Scholarships Available

Columbia River PUD offers two types of scholarships to graduating seniors from local high schools:

- Three \$1,000 scholarships to recognize students for their outstanding community service efforts.
- Three \$1,000 scholarships for students who intend to pursue a career in the utility industry. These scholarships are renewable for a second year.

Criteria:

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and provide a copy of their SAT or ACT scores, their transcripts, and a letter of reference from a community member.



Community service scholarship applicants will be evaluated on their community service activities. They must submit a 250-word essay explaining what community involvement means to them.

Utility career scholarship applicants must submit a 500 word essay explaining which utility career they would like to pursue and why it was chosen. They must identify the specific school and program they plan to attend.

How to apply:

Applications are available in the counseling offices local high schools, at the PUD office and online at www.crpud.net. Submit completed applications to:

PUD Scholarship Team, P.O. Box 1193, St. Helens, OR 97051

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2009.

Energy-Saving Tips

- Clean or replace furnace filters monthly. Clogged filters use more energy.
- Turn your thermostat down a few degrees. Set it even lower when you are away or asleep.
- Install a programmable thermostat, which can reduce heating bills up to 10%.
- Caulk or weather strip around exterior windows or doors.
- Set your water heater at 120° (140° if your dishwasher has no heating unit).
- Use your dishwasher, and run full loads. Use the 'energy-saver' or air dry mode.
- Turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Replace burned out light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which use much less electricity.
- When buying new appliances, windows, or heating & cooling systems, choose products with the ENERGY STAR label.



Sign up for *Always Current* - Automatic payment with email billing

Complete this form and return with payment or submit to: Columbia River PUD, PO Box 1193, St. Helens, OR 97051.

****Please include a voided blank check with this form.****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

PUD Customer Number: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Choose a Password: _____

Bank Name: _____

Name on Account: _____

Bank Routing #: _____

Bank Account #: _____

Type of Account: Checking Savings

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Add Budget Pay option? (Equal monthly payments, amount calculated each March)

Yes No

