



Skamania County PUD's News from the Wire

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Edition**

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**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

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Hwy.
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8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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**Board of
Commissioners**

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Monday 04/04/11
Monday 04/18/11

Monday 05/02/11
Monday 05/16/11

Monday 06/06/11
Monday 06/20/11

Be Prepared for Big Outages: They Happened in Japan, They Could Happen Here

It is very important to be prepared. Watching the news of current natural disasters in Japan makes one stop and think; in a moment, our world can be turned upside down, and we need to be prepared. The first few days in March this year brought large storms to our area, causing county-wide power outages which lasted for a substantial amount of time. Our crew was working around the clock to get the power restored!

Some of the calls we received during this time regarded serious concerns like the elderly and sickly in cold homes, loss of oxygen machine and Lifeline® function, and even the care of animals. These outages, (which seemed big at the time) were small compared to the natural disaster felt around the world starting in Japan.

In the event of a power outage, the “be prepared” motto applies to everyone – not just Boy Scouts. While we don’t get hit by tsunami’s, we do have strong wind and ice storms that can topple trees and disrupt power to your home or business. We’re proud of our power reliability, but we can’t always predict the severity of our weather. This brings out the importance of being prepared for both the big & small. Fortunately, being prepared does not involve a lot of money or time. Having an emergency kit is a great way to prepare for potential outages. The following items may be useful during outages:

- Flashlight and fresh batteries, matches, lanterns and fuel, light sticks
- Alternate heat source
- Battery powered radio and batteries
- A telephone that operates without electricity (cordless phones don’t work when you lose power)
- Canned or dried foods like crackers and peanut butter, and a manual can opener
- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit and personal medical supplies
- Extra blankets
- Drinking water and water for other uses
- Wind-up battery clock
- Ice chest with ice or ice packs
- Wood if you have a fireplace
- Emergency phone numbers, including shelters
- Board games or playing cards for your entertainment

It's also a good idea to have a first aid kit. Once you've assembled the kit, let everyone in the family know where it is stored. The American Red Cross



(www.redcross.org) has detailed information on what should be included in a 72 hour emergency kit.

It's a good idea to check all items in your emergency kit once a year to make sure they're in good condition or that dates have not expired. Spending a little time preparing for possible winter outages can mean the difference between staying safe and comfortable, or sitting in a cold, dark house.

Manager, Bob Wittenberg

Budget Plan: Time for recalculations and new sign ups

Now is the time to sign up for the monthly budget plan. Calculations are based on the account's actual usage for the previous year history, divided into twelve equal monthly payments. Annually, all budget accounts will be recalculated to adjust for changes in usage. The status of the budget is tracked throughout the year and adjusted as needed. Please contact our office if you would like to become a new budget plan customer.

Employees Happy to Show Identification

Occasionally, a PUD employee may come to your door regarding meter reading or other services. Employees drive marked vehicles and carry identification cards. Feel free to ask for ID or to call the utility at 1-800-922-5329 to verify employment.

Protect yourself and your family.

What's in That Green Metal Box?

Many of our customers are serviced by a power transformer somewhat near the house or building being serviced (that green box in your yard!) The transformer takes the power at the PUD's system voltage of 7200 volts and changes it to the 120/240 volts that is used by the consumer. Although it is not a thing of beauty, please don't try to hide the box by planting trees, shrubs, or flowers around it. The transformer must be exposed to the air currents for cooling, and our line crews must occasionally work in or around it. This is a safety issue for our crew.

The opening on the front requires a minimum clearance of seven feet in order for the line crew to safely reenergize it using a "hot stick." Please help us by keeping the area around your transformer clear.

News From the Wire
is an informational newsletter published by
Skamania County PUD for our customers.
Reader comments are welcome.

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