'Tis the Season to Be Ready

Here at the PUD, the phrase, “‘tis the season,” isn’t about tinsel, holly and Santa –’tis about the approaching storm season. Through late autumn and early winter, we know we can count on this: the winds will howl, the snow will fly and together they will conspire to topple trees that knock down power poles and cause outages. If the power goes out, getting it back on safely and efficiently is Job Number One year-round. So, when storm season arrives, scrambling crews and trucks to restore power is almost routine, though horizontal rain, sleet and snow combined with icy or snowed-in roads do pose challenges. Summer through early autumn, like retail stores prepping for the holiday season, we’re busy gearing up for storm season. Power pole bunks and fuel storage tanks are filled, and inventories of fuses, splices and other materials needed for power restoration are at their highest levels of the year. Trucks begin to carry “storm coils,” 100 to 200 feet long rolls of electrical wire that expedite the repair of short spans of power lines by eliminating the need to wait for the delivery of a large coil to the scene.

“We know the storms are coming, we just don’t know exactly when,” says General Superintendent Dennis Shaw. “Our job is to plan ahead and prepare for the worst to ensure that we’re ready with all the tools and equipment we need to respond safely, quickly and efficiently.”

How are your winter preparations going? Do we have your current contact information? Are you and your home ready for the storms ahead? Participating in the Home Weatherization and Heating Incentive Programs offered by our Conservation Department (see Side 2) and following the suggestions in your September bill insert on storm preparedness (available at all our offices and online at www.clallampud.net/safety_outages) are two great ways to get started. It’s never too early to be ready.

Weather Radios Provide Storm Alerts

“The best way to get timely and accurate local weather information is a weather radio,” says meteorologist Ted Buchner with the Seattle/Tacoma National Weather Service Office. “Weather radios broadcast local weather information 24 hours a day and activate when an emergency message is aired, so you get alerts at the same time as news media.” Local frequencies are 162.425 MHz and 162.55 MHz. For local weather online, visit www.weather.gov/seattle; for weather radio purchase tips, click on “Weather Radio.”

Pooled Savings

Utility Services Advisor, Mattias Järvegren (left), and PUD customer, John Holmes, discuss our most recent Custom Commercial Energy Efficiency Program project: replacing the 40 year old heat pump for the Dungeness Meadows Homeowners Association’s pool heater with a new high efficiency unit. Holmes, a retired engineer, analyzed the prospective costs and electricity usage of the upgrade and contacted Mattias to explore cost-saving energy efficiency incentive options. With 30,000 kWh/year in gained energy savings and a 70 percent incentive provided by Bonneville Power Administration through our Custom Commercial Energy Efficiency Program, the payback period for this project is just one year. To learn more about our Custom Commercial Energy Efficiency Program, call (360) 565-3263 or (800) 542-7859 x263.
Q&A with Conservation

**What do you love about your job?**
Helping people from all walks of life save energy, lower their energy bills and improve home comfort. The variety of work we do: energy efficiency, weatherization, renewable energy, community outreach, customer education, contractor training, etc.

**What don’t customers know about your job?**
The amount of documentation and coordination (both internally and out in the community) required to make our incentive programs run smoothly for customers, participating installers and three levels of auditing (1. PUD internal, 2. Washington State, and 3. Bonneville Power Administration).

**What is one of the most challenging aspects of your job?**
The breadth and depth of knowledge required to do our jobs and juggling job functions. Fulfilling our energy conservation obligations as one of the state's largest public utilities, with one of the state's smallest Conservation departments.

**What can customers do to make your job safer/easier?**
During our job-inspection visits, please tell us about any hazards in your home, attic and/or crawlspace and maintain control of your pets. Since 99 percent of the information requested on our forms is required for auditing purposes, please be sure to fully complete forms before submitting them.

**Would you recommend your occupation to others?**
If you enjoy working with the public and believe in the importance of energy conservation, absolutely!