

Currents

Published monthly for the customer-owners of Clark Public Utilities

OCTOBER 2018



PLAN NOW TO BE PREPARED

Weather in the Pacific Northwest is generally mild. However, we're approaching the time of year when windy and rainy weather can topple trees and cause outages. While outage kits are an important part of being prepared, there are a few other things you can do now to ensure you stay safe if the lights go out.

1. CALL POWERLINE OR REPORT THE OUTAGE ONLINE—If you lose power, first check outside to see if your neighbors are also out. If they aren't, check your service panel or breaker box to rule out problems inside your home. Once you've determined the issue is due to a power outage, call PowerLine at 360-992-8000 or use the easy online tool to report the outage. Only call 911 if there's a fire, injury or other immediate danger.

2. ELECTRONICS—To protect electronic equipment and reduce the demand on the electrical system when power is restored, turn off and unplug electronics in your house - especially any devices that create heat. Leave your porch light and one inside light switched on - it helps you and our crews know when power has been restored.

3. LISTEN OR WATCH FOR UPDATES—During major power outages, listen to your battery-powered radio, or check the online outage map, social media and news sites from your smart phone for updates.

4. KEEP WARM—If the heat is off, dress in layers and wear a hat to preserve body heat. In an extended outage, find a warm place to go and wait until power is restored.

5. STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES—Call us immediately to report any downed lines. Always assume a downed line is energized and stay far away - don't try to move or block the line.

LIGHT LINES

Celebrate Public Power Month



October is Public Power Month and a time to celebrate the many benefits of public power in Clark County. Formed by a vote of the people in 1938, Clark Public Utilities has provided quality power at cost to the customer-owners in Clark County for 80 years. As a non-profit utility, our focus is always on affordability, reliability and customer service. Every day.



CONTACT US

PHONE360-992-3000

QUICK PAY360-992-3400

REPORT POWER OUTAGES

.....360-992-8000

EMAIL ... mailbox@clarkpud.com

WEBSITE... clarkpublicutilities.com



Use Generators Safely

While we work hard each day to provide you with the most reliable electric service possible, occasional power outages do occur. An emergency preparedness kit is always important, but if you want the added security of still being able to run appliances or charge electrical devices while the power is out, consider investing in a generator – just be sure it is installed and operated correctly to protect your family and our lineworkers.

A portable generator usually runs on gasoline and provides up to 6,000 watts of electricity. These are used to run individual appliances, such as a refrigerator.

Permanent generators provide up to 20,000 watts of electricity, run on propane and are wired into the electrical system of your home. Generators make life easier during outages, but only if you use them safely. Remember:

- Do not plug a backup generator into a wall outlet in your home. Ensure that you use it properly with extension cords going directly to the appliance or lighting you may need. If you have a larger generator wired directly to your home's electrical system, make sure it is professionally installed with an automatic transfer switch. This is critical for safety and prevents your generator from back feeding electricity into utility lines and putting our workers and other members of the public at risk.
- Never use a generator (or anything that creates fire, like a BBQ or camp stove) indoors or in an enclosed space such as a garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur silently and quickly. Place generators outdoors, away from doors and windows, and consider installing a carbon monoxide alarm if you don't have one in your home.



Beware of Energy Vampires



Vampire loads, also called phantom loads or standby power, suck a continual trickle of electricity out of your wall sockets, even when a device is not powered on. When you consider the numerous electrical devices in a home today, it adds up quickly. The most common suckers of phantom power are laptops, battery chargers and DVR set-top boxes with digital cable. Here's how you can vanquish energy vampires:

- Buy a smart strip: At less than \$50, a smart power strip reduces power usage by cutting power off to gadgets that go into standby mode. Not only can this save you money, but it's good for the environment. Smart power strips contain circuitry for monitoring and controlling their outlets. So when one device hits standby mode, the power for its plug-in goes off while all other sockets stay on.
- Unplug appliances not in use: If your battery charger, coffee maker, etc. is not in use, unplug it. If it's not plugged in, it can't suck energy!
- If you are looking to replace old appliances, look for ones that are Energy Star rated. They use 10-50 percent less energy than traditional appliances. This way, even if they remain plugged in they will draw less electricity.



**“Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Midsize Utilities in the West,
11 Years in a Row”**

Clark Public Utilities received the highest score in the West Midsize segment of the J.D. Power 2008-2018 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Studies of customers' satisfaction nationally among electric residential customers. Visit jdpower.com/awards