

Connections

SMUD ready for test of winter storms

Making sure the power is there when you need it is a year-round priority for SMUD maintenance crews.

Each year they patrol and inspect all of SMUD's nearly 9,800 miles of distribution lines and 500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines to spot and correct potential problems. Preventive maintenance is performed constantly on lines, poles, substations and transformers to ensure high levels of system reliability.

In addition, SMUD crews prune between 60,000 and 70,000 trees annually to minimize the potential for outages from falling branches during a storm.

As the storm season approaches, SMUD works with federal, county and municipal agencies to coordinate emergency response plans. When a storm approaches, SMUD crews, suppliers, emergency and customer service personnel are put on high alert, supported by the very



SMUD crew replaces a downed power pole during a winter storm.

latest in emergency response technology. Preparedness and reliability are hallmarks of SMUD's service to

customers. (See below for tips on how you can prepare for the winter storm season.) ■



Step up and cast a ballot in the national election

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, but you need to be registered beforehand to cast your vote. Be sure to register by Oct. 20.

Voting by mail? Sign up by Oct. 28. For more information, visit the Sacramento County Elections Web site, www.elections.sacounty.net, or call (916) 875-6451. ■

Storms are inevitable, so be prepared

Safety first:

If power lines fall, stay away. Call 911.

Prepare an emergency kit:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Matches
- Bottled water
- Wind-up clock
- Manual can opener
- Battery-operated radio



Call **1-888-456-SMUD (7683)** to report an outage or downed power line. ■

Contact us:

Customer Services: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683)

Hours: M-F 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Pay online: www.smud.org



Light your home right with compact fluorescents

You probably know by now that compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) last up to 10 times longer than standard light bulbs and use up to 75 percent less energy. Did you also know that you can now get them for as low as 99 cents?

Cut your energy bills down to size and help protect the environment by replacing your standard, hot-burning light



bulbs with CFLs. They come in a variety of attractive styles and deliver up to seven years of warm, inviting light.

For a list of retailers offering SMUD discounts on CFLs, and for instructions on proper recycling of used bulbs, visit www.smud.org. ■

Save energy, money with CFLs now.



See your energy costs in real-time.

Take control of your energy use with new real-time monitor from SMUD

What if you could see, in real-time, what your energy use was costing you? You can, with a SMUD PowerCost Monitor™.

The PowerCost Monitor lets you see how much electricity you are using, what it's costing you and how much you save by switching things off. Users typically can save up to 20 percent on their monthly electric bills.

The PowerCost Monitor retails for \$149.99, but it's available

to SMUD customers for \$39.95. Visit www.smud.org/monitor for information or call Blue Line Technologies to get your PowerCost Monitor at special SMUD customer pricing, **1-866-607-2583**.

An easy-to-install transmitter attached to your electric meter sends information to a portable display inside your home. The paired devices come with printed instructions and a short installation DVD. ■

Fight the paper pile: Choose paperless billing

It's enough just to keep up with the onslaught of paper that arrives each day in the mail. SMUD can help you whittle down that pile with eBill – SMUD's free paperless billing service.

To get started, go to www.smud.org and click on "Your Account." In just minutes you'll be ready to start viewing your monthly bills online and paying them one time or automatically each month with your credit card or from your checking account. You'll receive a monthly e-mail notification when you bill is ready for viewing.

The eBill also lets you view your 24-month billing and payment history.

So fight the paper pile, cut waste and eliminate stamps and checks with eBill. For more information, visit www.smud.org. ■



Paying your SMUD bill online is safe, easy and minimizes waste.

SMUD Board of Directors

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Meetings of the SMUD Board of Directors are open to the public and held on every first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and every third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the SMUD Headquarters Auditorium, 6201 S St., Sacramento. Meeting times and locations are subject to change. For the latest information and agenda, visit www.smud.org, or call the Board Office at (916) 732-6155.