

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services •

916•732•5111

For immediate release

February 13, 2009

SMUD prepared for latest storm

Line repair crews and customer service representatives ready to deal with possible power outages

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) crews are prepared to restore power to customers who may experience outages caused by storms expected today and this weekend. Forecasts vary, but there is expected to be a lot of rain and gusty winds. With the ground already soaked from this week's continued rain, high winds could possibly topple trees and power poles.

When outages do occur, SMUD works around-the-clock to restore electric service as quickly as possible. SMUD has additional crews on call that can be brought in if necessary. SMUD also has a full complement of customer service representatives ready to answer customer calls reporting outages.

SMUD is providing a list of tips below to help customers deal with any outages that may occur during this storm. Please provide them to your readers, listeners and viewers.

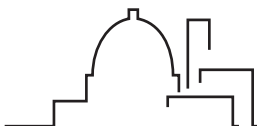
Preparing for a storm:

- prepare a simple emergency kit and store in an accessible place. Be sure to include:
 - a flashlight
 - battery operated clock
 - extra batteries
 - manual can opener
 - supply of bottled water
- have a battery operated radio or television to get news reports with estimated times that electricity will be restored.

If the power goes out...

- check to see if the lights are out in neighboring homes -- if they are, chances are that you're a part of a larger outage.
- call SMUD's toll free outage line at **1-888-456-SMUD (7683)**. Customers will hear information about identified outages that have already been reported. If the outage in your area has not been reported, you may be asked to report an outage.
 - if asked to report an outage, be prepared to give your:
 - phone number with area code
 - address
 - a description of the problem
- and if yours is the only home on the street without power, the problem may be in your service panel. Check to see if the main circuit breaker switch has flipped to the "off" or "trip" position. If it has, and you are standing on dry ground and have dry hands, firmly push the switch to the "off" position and then to the "on" position.

- - more - -



2 – 2 – 2 – 2 SMUD prepared for latest storm

- turn off all electric appliances except one light while waiting for electricity to be restored. This lowers the initial demand for electricity and makes it easier for SMUD crews to restore electric service. The light will signify when power has been restored.

If stormy weather knocks down a power line...

- call SMUD at 1-888-456-SMUD (7683) or 911 immediately.
- assume the line is “energized” and stay away and warn others to do the same.
- do not remove fallen tree limbs or other debris from power lines. Tree limbs and other objects can conduct electricity that can shock anyone coming in contact with them.

The following priorities are used to determine where crews will be sent during a storm:

- public safety hazards (power lines down, poles down)
- hospitals and critical flood control pumps
- areas with large numbers of customers out of power
- scattered, smaller outages

#