

Winter Tips and a Few Thoughts

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It is another cold winter here in Klickitat County. Here are a few helpful tips that can make a difference in your winter heating bills.

Insulate: It's never too late to keep those cold drafts under control, and weather stripping and window covers are easy to install. Now is a good time to call Klickitat PUD (KPUD) for information on more permanent upgrades, such as new windows.

They may not help this year, but now that you are thinking about it, this is a good time to make sure future heating and cooling costs are manageable.

Call Miquette, KPUD's energy service specialist, at 773-7622 to schedule an appointment.

Prepare for outages: You never know when bad weather will cause a power outage. Keep a flashlight handy. Call KPUD when you have an outage. Many times a customer has assumed the outage was widespread and did not call in. We depend on you to let us know when your power goes out.

Our line crews are dedicated and work tirelessly to restore power when an outage occurs. They know you depend on electricity to heat your home, cook your meals, pump your water and perform a myriad of chores around the house.

People frequently comment after a long outage that they did not realize how dependent they have come to be on electricity. This is especially true during the winter.

When an outage occurs, turn off and unplug sensitive electronic equipment. Turn off breakers to water and electric heaters. For widespread outages in the winter,



this load will all come on as soon as the power is restored. The cumulative effect can cause a secondary overload outage.

Turn on an outside light so the line crews can see power is on at your house.

Never plug personal generators into the home electrical system.

Power can reverse flow out onto the high-voltage lines, causing a safety issue for the line crew.

For more information on preparing for outages, check out our Web site at www.klickitapud.com. You can see a good section on what to do in case of an outage.

Finally, think about others less fortunate than yourself. Our Operation Warm Heart Program was created to assist low-income families in hardship. Sign up for a regular donation of a dollar or two on each bill, or use Operation Round-Up and donate a few pennies by rounding up your bill to the next even dollar amount.

These small gestures make a huge difference for someone in trouble. Have a safe and enjoyable winter. ■



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