

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Power Outages Possible on Thursday

With high winds and heavy rain predicted for Southwest Washington on Thursday, Cowlitz PUD reminds all customers that a greater possibility exists for power outages. The forecast calls for wind gusts to exceed 30 miles per hour from late morning until evening on Thursday.

“If the wind blows hard in the fall while the trees are still heavy with leaves, we are more prone to outages and possibly downed power lines,” PUD Spokesman Dave Andrew said. “The most important rule to follow is to stay away from any downed lines.”

To report a power outage or fallen line, call the PUD at (360) 423-2210. If the phone is busy, keep trying. “During large power outages we can receive hundreds or even thousands of calls in a short time span. Sometimes it can take a few tries to get through, but we’ll have people here to answer questions and take outage reports,” Andrew said. Anyone observing a life threatening situation should call 9-1-1.

“We have been watching the forecast for a few days, so everyone here at the PUD is ready if the lights go out,” Andrew said.

Basic power outage preparation tips:

- Have an emergency preparedness kit that contains flashlights with extra batteries and a battery-powered radio. Know where the flashlights are so you can find them in the dark.
- Have a corded telephone available. Cordless phones do not work when the power is out.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to open the door without power.

If the power goes out:

- Use caution if you light candles.
- If you use a generator, follow the manufacturer’s instructions. Don’t connect a generator to the house circuit, without an approved transfer switch. Place it outside for proper ventilation while running. Never use barbecues or propane heaters indoors or in a garage.

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- Unplug electronics — like computers, TVs, DVDs — and do not turn them on again until the lights have come back on for a few minutes.
- If you have electric heat turn down the thermostat(s) and turn off the water heater circuit breaker to help reduce initial electric demand when power is restored.
- Do not open refrigerators or freezers during an outage.
- Leave a porch light switched on, as well as a light inside your home, to let PUD repair crews and you know when service is restored.

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