

Fall & Winter Windstorms

Every fall and winter, windstorms cause extensive damage, including the loss of electricity throughout the Pacific Northwest. Here is a bit of recent windstorm history.

Severe storms over the years

Dec. 14 and 15, 2006: Hanukkah Eve Storm. Winds gusted to 69 mph at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The storm cut off power to 1.5 million customers, some for a week or more, and caused millions of dollars in damages. Fourteen deaths were attributed to the storm, including eight people who died of carbon-monoxide poisoning.

March 3, 1999: Winds gusted to more than 60 mph in some Puget Sound

areas. One person was killed, and more than 200,000 homes lost power. At its peak, the storm packed winds gusting to more than 70 mph, and 100 mph in Westport, Grays Harbor County. Gov. Gary Locke declared a state of emergency in Kitsap, Thurston, Jefferson, Pacific and Mason counties.

Nov. 23, 1998: Winds topping 60 mph cut power to 235,000 customers in the Puget Sound area, put part of Sea-Tac

Airport in the dark and a Snohomish County woman who got too close to a power line was killed.

Dec. 12, 1995: Winds gusted up to 90 mph, cutting power to more than 400,000 customers and closing the Highway 520 and Hood Canal floating bridges.

Jan. 20, 1993: The Inauguration Day storm killed six people, cut power to more than 700,000 customers and did \$150 million worth of damage.

Thanksgiving 1991: A Nov. 22 storm

with 60 mph winds felled trees, cut power and interrupted the holiday for 40,000 Western Washington households. A woman and her two children were killed.

Oct. 12, 1962: The Columbus Day storm — technically an extra-tropical cyclone — raged through Western Washington. Winds gusted to 90 mph in the Seattle area and hit 100 mph at the Renton Airport.

*Sources: Seattle Times news sources;
Property Claim Services*

By preparing for the windstorm season before it begins, you can lessen the impact that any power outages would have on you and your family. Our Clallam County power provider, PUD, has provided guidelines on how to prepare and deal with power outages.

Be Prepared for Unforeseen Power Outages

Winter Storm Readiness Kit:



Flashlight



Battery-Operated Radio



Extra Batteries



Bottled Water



Wind-up or Battery-Operated Clock



Telephone with Cord



Manual can opener

AND... Don't Forget!

- Non-perishable food
- First aid kit
- Warm clothing
- Sleeping bags
- Medications
- Important phone #'s
- Pet food

What to do if your power goes out:

- 1** Check your fuse or breaker box for blown fuses or tripped breakers. If they're O.K., see if your neighbors have power.
- 2** Call us immediately. You will be asked for details on the outage.
- 3** Turn off all electrical appliances to help prevent damage to your electrical goods when power is restored.
- 4** Listen to the radio (battery-powered with extra batteries on hand) for updates on major storms. If you have internet access, check our website for outage information at: www.clallampud.net
- 5** If your lights are too dim or too bright once power is restored, turn off the power at the breaker or fuse box and call the number below.

Report outages to:

360-452-9771

or

800-542-7859

Important!

Our outage management system identifies outage sites by the phone number used to report them.

If your contact information has changed, and you have not notified us of that change, please do so now.

Help us help you. Please call:

360-452-9771 or 800-542-7859

Downed Power Line Safety



- **Call the PUD immediately** if you see any downed power lines.
- **Stay back 100' or more** from downed power lines **AND** anything they touch. Keep kids and pets away.
- **If a power line falls on your vehicle**, don't get out! Wait for help.
- **If a power line is touching someone**, stay away. **Call 911 for help!**



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What Causes Power Outages?



Trees



Digging



Storms



Animals & Birds



Car accidents



Equipment Failure

Plan ahead

- **Never use candles!** Have several flashlights with extra batteries and/or non-electric lamps on-hand and ready for use.
- **Have an emergency plan for relocating those most susceptible to the cold** to a warm and safe place. The PUD does not guarantee uninterrupted service to homes where a serious medical condition exists..
- **Cordless phones don't work during an outage.** Have a standard (corded) telephone and/or fully-charged cell phone with extra batteries as back-ups. Note: *cell phone towers can be impacted during outages.*
- **Have an emergency plan for checking on those who may need help** during storms and outages — and a back-up plan if phones are out.
- **Automatic garage door openers won't work if the power is out.** Check to see if you have a manual override; know how to use it.
- **Keep freezers closed during outages.** Full freezers can keep food frozen for about two days — one day if less than full.
- **Make a habit of backing up computer files to prevent lost data.**

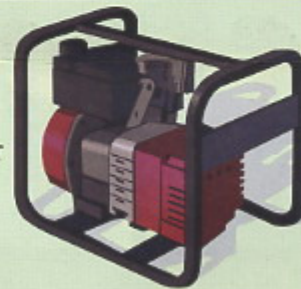


Information for People with Disabilities:

- Please consider purchasing a back-up generator for use during extended outages for those dependent upon home medical life support.
- Keep a spare, charged battery for motorized scooters or wheelchairs.
- Keep at least a 5 day supply of essential medications on hand.

Generator Safety

- **Only operate your generator outside in a dry, well-ventilated area!**
- **Do not** attach a generator to your fuse or breaker panel. Consult your local PUD office for assistance.
- ***ALWAYS*** follow your generator's operating manual carefully!



To report an outage, call:

360-452-9771

or

800-542-7859



Bringing Energy To Life™

Lastly, here is information on Sequim's community radio station – KSQM 91.5 FM. This is where you'll get information during wind storms, snow emergencies, and disasters such as earthquakes.

CITY OF SEQUIM
March 2009

Disaster Preparedness:

Community Radio in Sequim

Since December of 2008, Sequim has enjoyed the benefit of our first community radio station. **KSQM 91.5 FM**, which is broadcasting 24 hours-a-day and has become the local source for emergency information, news and alert information during natural and manmade events. KSQM is also part of the Emergency Broadcast System providing radio coverage throughout Sequim and the Dungeness Valley. **KSQM is unique in that it is a non-profit 100% volunteer staffed community radio station** that is lead by Rick Perry a retired USN Captain who has spent four years getting the station licensed, set-up and running.

The City and other emergency service agencies routinely share critical information, updates and alerts using KSQM as the only quick and effective way to share news and information immediately with the community during emergencies and disasters. The station has already been instrumental during the recent snow storm broadcasting school closures, power outage information, and weather and road conditions. The station even assisted the police department with recent broadcasts about a wanted felon who was seen in town as well as information on Block Watch and Operation Lifesaver.

In preparing for emergencies you should have a portable radio with additional batteries, so that you can tune to KSQM 91.5 FM during any emergency or disaster.

We can prepare ahead of time for disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, or severe weather storms. If we take the time now we may all be able to reduce the unpleasant effects these disasters can have on our families, our homes and our community. Establish your family plan and know your evacuation routes. Visit <http://www.ready.gov> to assist you in getting your family, workplace and kids prepared:

Do you know what to do in the event of an earthquake? When you feel the ground shake:

- Drop, cover and hold.
- *Evacuate inland, or to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for notification.*
- Take your 3-day disaster supply kit.
- *Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or **KSQM 91.5 FM** for information on shelter locations and emergency broadcasts. NOAA Weather Radio frequencies are:*
 - Astoria 162.40 Mhz; Mt. Octopus 162.55 Mhz; Olympia 162.475 Mhz

Visit http://www.emd.wa.gov/publications/documents/_Sequimmap.pdf for evacuation routes.

Another local emergency station is KONP 1450 AM.