



Issue 07-5

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Emergency Preparedness Kits

As winter approaches our thoughts turn to colder weather and the need to prepare ourselves. Winter brings with it the threat of ice, snow, and cold weather. Occasionally, the electricity goes out and the possibility exists that customers will be without power for several hours or days. Folks should be prepared for the worst. This is where an emergency preparedness kit could make a difference. A kit should contain the following items:

- ✓ Dry or canned food and drinking water for three days (for each person)
- ✓ Can opener
- ✓ First-aid supplies and first-aid book
- ✓ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, licenses, insurance policies)
- ✓ Special needs items (infant formula, eye glasses, medications)
- ✓ A change of clothing for each person
- ✓ Sleeping bags
- ✓ Battery or crank powered radio
- ✓ Flashlight with extra batteries or crank flashlight
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Waterproof matches
- ✓ Toys, books, puzzles, games
- ✓ Extra house and car keys
- ✓ List of contact names and phone numbers

Other items should be considered to make the event as comfortable as possible.

For additional information and a complete list contact:

Okanogan County Sheriff's Office
 Department of Emergency Management
 123 5th Avenue N. Room 200
 Okanogan, WA 98840
 509.422.7206
 Or visit their website at
www.okanogandem.org

LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Are you planning to decorate with strings of lights this holiday season? We suggest you switch to energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. Replacing standard light strings with LED's reduces energy use by as much as 99% and the bulbs are rated to last up to 200,000 hours. Come in to your local PUD office to see samples of these energy efficient lights.

FIREPLACE and CHIMNEY SAFETY

It's that time of year to get your fireplace, wood, gas, or pellet stove ready. Ole Man Winter will be here before you know it. Check to be sure the stove is working properly. Make any needed repairs while you still have time. Have your chimney professionally checked and cleaned if needed. The National Fire Protection Association recommends you have your chimney checked at least once a year and cleaned if needed.

Every year many homes are damaged or destroyed by chimney fires. Don't let this happen to you.

We're on the Web!
www.okanoganpud.org

1331 2nd Ave N.
PO Box 912
Okanogan, WA 98840-0912
Phone: 509-422-3310
800-922-7011
Fax 509-422-4020



ENERGY EFFICIENT COMPUTERS

Are you interested in purchasing energy efficient computers? Ask your retailer about the 80 Plus™ program. The 80 Plus™ performance specification requires power supplies in computers and servers to be 80% or greater energy efficient. This makes an 80 Plus™ certified power supply at least 33% more efficient than current power supplies. 80 Plus™ computers reduce energy use, cost less to operate, generate less heat and last longer.

Cold Weather Tips

Every year about this time we offer a list of cold weather tips for customers to implement before winter sets in. Occasionally, we come up with a new idea; but usually the old tried and true tips end up back on the list because they still work. So bear with us as we once again present our top ten cold weather tips list.

- 10) Service heating systems before they're needed
- 9) Close crawlspace perimeter vents or cover them with plastic
- 8) Fix broken ducts and replace cracked or peeling tape on ducts with mastic
- 7) Plug unused wall outlets with childproof safety caps
- 6) Cover windows at night
- 5) Insulate water pipes
- 4) Install storm windows and doors
- 3) Replace furnace filters regularly for optimum furnace efficiency
- 2) Caulk and weatherstrip

And the number one tip is.....

Insulate, Insulate, Insulate

Internet Resources

The internet can be a great source of information on a variety of subjects including energy use and conservation. Unfortunately, there is a lot of bad, misleading and/or biased information out there. As we all know there are a lot of websites that just want to sell us something. Although commercial sites do offer valuable information on specific products, we prefer to get information from more generally unbiased sites such as government or non-profit organizations. After reviewing the information from these sites one can then visit the commercial sites for product availability. We've compiled a list of our favorite sites for you to visit. They are available as links from the PUD website at www.okanoganpud.org. Once there, click on the "Conservation" tab and then the "Recommended Links" tab. Good luck! If you find these sites useful or have sites you would like to recommend, let us know. We'd like to hear from you.

