

Commissioner Message

Preparing for Fall and Winter Storms

By: Linda Oosterman, Thurston PUD Commissioner

Fall is here, and winter is right around the corner. As we prepare for lower temperatures, increased precipitation, and a greater likelihood of wind storms, here are some recommendations to prepare you:



Linda Oosterman,
Commissioner—District 1

Outside Your Home

- **Keep your gutters clean and clear of debris.** Clogged gutters can lead to costly roof damage.
- **Rake leaves and debris away from storm drains.** Help prevent flooded streets and damage to personal property by keeping storm drains clear.
- **Keep your vehicle fueled.** Fuel may not be available in a dire emergency, so make sure your vehicle is topped off during bad weather.
- **Test and/or service your generator.** If you have a generator for your home, test it annually during non-emergency situations to ensure it can perform during emergency situations.
- **Have the trees on your property evaluated.** If you are a homeowner with a lot of large trees located near your home, call an arborist to evaluate the trees on your property. Some companies provide free consultations.
- **Install faucet covers.** For any outdoor faucets, install insulated covers to prevent frozen or burst pipes.



Example of a faucet cover.

Inside Your Home

- **Insulate exposed pipes.** To prevent possible freezing inside your home in colder areas like a basement, attic or garage, insulate exposed pipes and other plumbing fixtures.
- **Ensure fire and carbon-monoxide alarms are in working order.** Regularly test your fire and carbon monoxide alarms.
- **Don't forget the flashlights.** In the case of a power outage, keep flashlights, batteries, candles, or any other kind of illumination handy. If you're using flashlights, keep batteries in stock.
- **Most importantly – keep drinking water on hand!** Keep bottled water on hand or fill buckets with water prior to an expected storm in case you experience a water outage.

(Continued on Page 3)

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

In This Issue

- Have You Heard about the PUD's Generator Program? Page 2
- Cybersecurity Tips. Page 3
- The Capital Surcharge and 2023 Capital Improvement Projects. Page 4



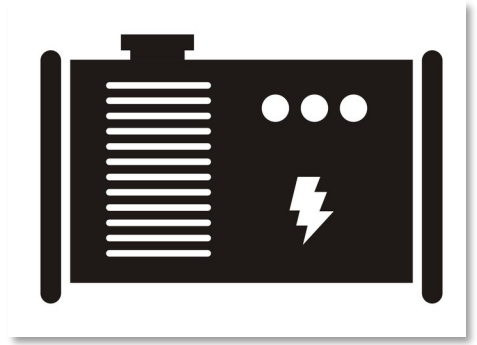
Your bill may still reflect Summer water usage.

Check the 'Meter Reading' portion of your bill statement for your specific consumption dates.

Thurston PUD
1230 Ruddell Road SE
Lacey, Washington 98503
(360) 357-8783
Toll-Free: (866) 357-8783
Fax: (360) 357-1172
www.ThurstonPUD.org

The PUD's Generator Program

Storm season in the Pacific Northwest is approaching, which can bring power outages. During a power outage, you may not have running water if your water system does not have a generator. During this time of the year we typically get asked how a water system can get a generator. The PUD created a Generator Program that can help secure financing for interested water systems through a vote of the property owners on that system. For Thurston PUD to create, manage and administer back-up power at your water system, the following criteria must be met:



- The District will provide a petition template to obtain the signatures of at least 25 percent of property owners on the water system. If 25 percent of property owner signatures are received, the District will send a ballot to all property owners on the water system.
- Owners of the properties served by the water system will have an opportunity to vote to determine whether they want to pursue a back-up generator for the water system.
 - To approve the generator, 66% of property owners must vote in favor, and residents will be required to pay for the initial cost of engineering and installing a backup generator system. The generator system costs include any required engineering, the cost of the generator itself and any installation costs. If approved by the residents and the PUD's Board of Commissioners, the PUD will purchase, install, operate, and maintain a generator based upon your willingness to pay a surcharge.
- If 66% or more of the property owners votes in favor of generator, the PUD will hire an engineer to analyze the power needs of your water system. For some water systems, installing generators may create problems for customers who have septic systems. We will examine your water system to determine any potential issues.
 - Based on the engineer's findings, a cost analysis will be completed to estimate a range for the customer surcharge that includes the required engineering, the estimated cost of the generator itself, and any installation costs. Next, the property owner approved generator ballot and engineer cost analysis will be presented to the Board of Commissioners. If the Board of Commissioners approves, the generator would be purchased and installed and a surcharge implemented that would be "trued-up" once the project was completed and the actual costs were known. The generator would be serviced, maintained, and replaced by the PUD when it reaches the end of its life cycle.
- If the vote does not pass, a follow up letter will be sent to the community to summarize voting information. Water systems are limited to a vote once every two years to help alleviate the administrative costs of these initiatives as well as allowing communities to bolster advocacy and promote buy-in.

The PUD commits to working closely with customers on water systems that are interested in seeking a generator. For more information about the District's Generator Program, please contact Customer Service at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org or by calling (360) 357-8783.

2023 Great Washington ShakeOut on 10/19 at 10:19 a.m.

For the past several years, the PUD has participated in the International ShakeOut Day on the third Thursday of October. The Great Washington ShakeOut is a statewide opportunity to practice how to be safer during large earthquakes and will occur on October 19, 2023. The PUD plans to participate with our own drill.



While staff are performing the drill, you may be disconnected while speaking with us or you may be unable to reach our office around 10:19 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2023. However, once the drill is completed, our staff will be available to answer any questions or concerns you have. For more information on ShakeOut Day, please visit www.shakeout.org/washington.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

2023 marks the 20th annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month and this year CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) is launching a new awareness program that will encourage 4 simple steps every American can take to stay safe online. Simple actions we should all take not only during Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but every day throughout the year. We encourage you to incorporate the 4 simple steps into your presence online:



Turn on Multifactor Authentication



Update Your Software



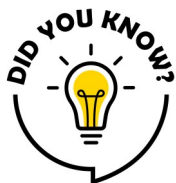
Think Before You Click



Use Strong Passwords

- Multifactor authentication means you need more than just a password to get access to your account and makes you less likely to get hacked.
- Ensuring your software is up to date is an easy way to keep up with the latest security patches on your devices. Pro tip, turn on automatic updates so you have peace of mind knowing it's always updated.
- By recognizing phishing attempts you can avoid compromising sensitive information to hackers.
- Strong passwords are critical to protecting your account. You can utilize a password manager to generate and store unique passwords to each of your accounts rather than using the same password for all platforms.

For more information regarding cybersecurity, visit www.cisa.gov.



According to the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency, more than 90% of successful cyber-attacks start with a phishing email. If it's a link you don't recognize, trust your instincts and think before you click!

Preparing for Fall and Winter Storms (Continued from Page 1)

Recommendations for You and Your Family

- **Prepare an emergency kit.** Visit www.ready.gov/kit for a list of basic disaster kit supplies. Be sure to have an emergency kit prepared for your vehicle as well; a list of emergency supplies for your car kit is located here: www.ready.gov/car.
- **Check with your veterinarian for animal care instructions in an emergency situation.** If you have a pet, be sure to include needed pet supplies as part of your emergency kit.
- **Know what emergency plans are in place at your workplace, school, or daycare center.** Create an emergency/communication plan for your family.
- **Check your homeowners or renters insurance policy** to review your coverage amounts and limits before you experience any property damage or loss.



If you experience a water service emergency, call us immediately at (360) 357-8783 or toll-free at (866) 357-8783 to report your location. Calls received after normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) are routed to our answering service and on-call staff.

The Capital Surcharge and 2023 Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)

We know the importance of infrastructure investments and planning for infrastructure replacements. The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are funded in part by Capital Surcharges, per the PUD's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Our staff strives to provide up-to-date information on these projects to help customers better understand the work needed to keep safe drinking water flowing. To help answer some of the most frequently asked questions about replacements, the AMP, and the CIP, a list of this information has been compiled below for your review.

What is an Asset Management Plan? An Asset Management Plan (AMP) is a financial planning tool we use when water system components will reach the end of their life cycles. We predict costs which helps us determine how much we need to budget each year. Staff has created an AMP for each of the 279 water systems owned and operated by the PUD.

What is a Capital Improvement? A capital improvement is a permanent structural change, addition, or alteration to infrastructure that adds to the value of the infrastructure or prolongs its useful life.

What is the Capital Surcharge? Why is it charged? The Capital Surcharge is a financial tool used to help fund infrastructure replacements and capital improvements based on a water system's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Capital surcharges are used to help fund system replacements at the end of an asset's life cycle. The capital surcharge is paid by all PUD customers and infrastructure replacement costs are shared by all PUD customers. This means if your water system has a component failure, the cost is covered through your rates and capital surcharges.

What capital projects or improvements does my system need? As stated previously, the PUD has created an AMP for each of the PUD's 279 water systems. Based on a water system's AMP, we projected and budgeted several Capital Improvement Projects for 2023. You can find the current year's Capital Budget on our website at www.thurstonpud.org/our-rates.htm.

Below is a list of some CIPs that have been completed through June 30, 2023.

For more information on your specific water system and its AMP, please contact our office at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or via email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org.

Category	Affected Water Systems	Cost
CI-62 Treatment Replacement/Upgrades	Evergreen Vista (308), Loma Vista (369), Frog Hollow 2 (614), ROM (626)	\$ 4,089.00
CI-65 Pressure Tanks	Pleasant Valley (307), Coppermill (520)	\$ 2,385.00
CI-66 System Upgrades	Pattison (500), Glacier Vista (665), Keanland Park (761), Crowder Road (213)	\$ 60,169.00
CI-71 Electrical Replacements	Elk Heights (247), Countrywood (680), Cedarwood (763)	\$ 37,925.00
CI-75 Service/Source Meters	Clerget (253), C Muck 1 (256), Terry Lane (354), Pattison (500), Walczak (620)	\$ 12,420.00
CI-76 Pump Replacements	Brockway 1 (208), Tolmie Estates (239), Elk Heights (247), H Muck 1 (259), Tish Hinkle (265), Eastridge 2 (347), Loma Vista (369), Coppermill (520), Country Club Estates (521), Wild Rose 3 (537), ROM (626), Meadows (690)	\$ 65,821.00
Total		\$182,809.00