

Operating Your Electric Generator Safely

To prepare for power outages, some customers buy electric generators to keep their lights on and appliances running until power can be restored.

While generators can be a convenient fix for power outages, they can also pose serious safety hazards to you and others. Because of these serious hazards, you should follow the manufacturers safety instructions and The National Electrical Safety Codes to ensure your safety and the safety of others around you.

A licensed electric contractor should be called to install permanent stand-by generators.

If you own and operate a generator, you are responsible for making sure the electricity from your unit can not backfeed or flow into KPUD's lines.

If not installed correctly, you run

the risk of damaging your property, endangering your life and the lives of KPUD's linemen who may be working on the lines.

Portable generators are designed to connect only to selected appliances or lamps and never into the house's wiring system.

When preparing to use your generator this year, please read the follow safety tips:

- Before starting your generator, read and follow all the manufacturers instructions.
- Make sure the total electric load on your generator will not exceed the manufacturers rating.
- Locate your generator where the exhaust will be vented safely.



- The more load on your generator the more fuel it will use. Plan what you will run on your generator, a small appliance and some low-watt light bulbs.

- Keep cords out of your walking area. Cords should not run under rugs and carpets where heat can build up, as damaged cords can go unnoticed.

- Be sure to properly size your extension cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and damage to your equipment or even start fires.

When your generator installation is complete, call Klickitat PUD to let us know about your back-up system. Please remember, you are responsible for injuries or damages to you or your neighbor's property for an improperly installed or operated generator. ■

Welcome to KPUD's New Customer Service Representative

Lori Froehlich has been hired as Klickitat PUD's new customer service representative.

Lori, who is a familiar face around KPUD, has been working in a part-time college student position since June 2004 for the Water/Wastewater Department. Her first day as a customer service representative was October 4.

Lori has worked for KPUD throughout her two years at Columbia Gorge Community College, earning her Associates of Arts Oregon transfer degree.

She now attends Washington State University full time, studying

in its distance degree program, seeking a bachelor's degree in humanities.

In her spare time between work and studying, Lori enjoys photography, fishing, four-wheeling, and other outdoor sports with her boyfriend, Adam.

She grew up in Goldendale, and continues to live in the community, along with most of her family.

KPUD is glad to have Lori join the customer service team.

Lori is enjoying the new learning experience within the utility and is excited to be working as a full-time employee. ■



Lori Froehlich