

## Is my Heat Pump Working Properly?

As the temperature turns colder, here are some tips to help you know your heat pump is working properly.

- In extremely cold weather, a properly working heat pump will run almost continuously. This is the way they are designed to work.

If it is not extremely cold and your heat pump seems to run all of the time, you should contact a service technician.

- During the winter it is normal for the heat pump to have a build-up of white frost on the outside coil during cold, damp weather. The build-up can completely cover the outdoor unit. A heat pump will change to defrost mode automatically every 30 to 90 minutes.

If you have a heavy build-up of clear ice, you should call a service technician.

- When your heat pump goes into the defrost cycle, it uses heat strips or auxiliary heat to melt the ice off the outside coil. An auxiliary heat light will appear on your thermostat during very cold weather, letting you know auxiliary heat is being used along with the heat pump

to maintain the desired temperature in your home.

If you notice your heat pump is running more than usual on mild days or the auxiliary light is coming on in mild weather, you should call a service technician.

- Heat pumps make strange and or loud noises at times, more so in the winter. Whooshing, tinny or air-brake sounds are normal noises the heat pump may make.

Klickitat PUD offers rebates for you to upgrade your heating system or replace an inefficient heat pump if you currently heat with electric.

Another way to make your heat pump work more efficiently is to replace filters every one to three months and have your duct work sealed and tested. We have rebates for duct sealing, too, along with a variety of weatherization measures.

Contact Energy Services for program specifications and rebate amounts before you start your project: (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357, ext. 622. ■

## Electrical Safety Tips for the Holidays



Extension cords help brighten the winter holidays by making sure your twinkling lights reach enough outlets. But it is your job to make sure they reach those outlets safely.

Following are some safety tips from Klickitat PUD:

- Use extension cords for short-term jobs around the holidays, but pack them away when you take down the tree. They are not intended for everyday use.

- Do not plug extension cords together. Choose one long cord instead.

- Unplug the cord when it is not in use. An extension cord remains energized until it is unplugged from the wall.

- Never run extension cords under a rug or across a wet floor.

- Outdoor uses require cords rated for the outdoors. It is not safe to use indoor cords outside.

- Replace extension cords that are damaged, cut, or feel hot to the touch. ■

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### December

**1**—Lyle Lions Community Center Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**1**—I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon Holiday Festival, White Salmon

**1**—Christmas Saturday in Carson, 3 p.m., Old School Grill

**1**—Providence Festival of Trees, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Oregon Convention Center, Portland

**1-24**—Blow your own Glass Ornament at White Salmon Glassworks, 105 E. Jewett Blvd., White Salmon. Call for more information and reservations: (509) 251-9044

**1-29**—Annual Holiday Quilt Show, 77 NE Wauna Ave., White Salmon

**1-31**—ZooLights Winter Wonderland, Oregon Zoo, Portland

**2**—Christmas Bazaar, 318 W. Brooks St., Goldendale

**2**—Christmas Jazz Concert, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Presby Mansion, Goldendale

**2**—Hope for the Holidays Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to noon, Hood River County Fairgrounds

**7**—Lighted Boat Parade, 7 p.m., view from Clover Island, Kennewick

**8**—Annual Bazaar at Columbia Hills Log Building, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dallesport

**8-9**—Crafty Wonderland Super Colossal Holiday Sale, Oregon Convention Center

**8-9**—Last Chance Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hood River County Fairgrounds, Community Building, [www.hoodriverfair.com/events.htm](http://www.hoodriverfair.com/events.htm)

**11**—KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale Office

**14-16**—Collectors West Gun and Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland

**15**—Mat Classic High School Wrestling Tournament, SunDome, Yakima

**15**—Breakfast at Goldendale Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Goldendale

**27**—KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale Office

**26-32**—Annual Winter Whale Watching Week, Oregon Coast

**28-29**—WIAA State Basketball at the SunDome, Yakima

**31**—Sassparilla Jug Band, Trout Lake Country Inn, 15 Guler Road, Trout Lake

