

**EXHIBIT NO. \_\_ (SML-9)**  
**DOCKET NO. PG-041624**  
**WITNESS: SUSAN MCLAIN**

**BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

**Complainant,**

**v.**

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,**

**Respondent.**

**Docket No. PG-041624**

**EIGHTH EXHIBIT TO THE PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
SUSAN MCLAIN (NONCONFIDENTIAL)  
ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.**

**AUGUST 15, 2005**

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

**PLEASE OPEN  
IMMEDIATELY**



1123 1-04

# Important Notice

Today we came by to conduct a scheduled leak survey on the PSE natural gas main line serving your neighborhood, the service line to your meter, and your meter.

**NO PROBLEMS WERE DETECTED**  
*unless* the box below is checked:

- A supervisor will contact you by 9:00 pm today. Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is part of the action plan developed by PSE, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and the City of Bellevue to assure the safety of the system serving you.

We will be conducting these surveys at least monthly until further notice, and any leaks detected will be promptly repaired.

If you have questions about the survey, natural gas safety or other concerns about your natural gas service, please call us at the number below and request a call from a PSE Supervisor.

**206-766-6800**

E-mail: [feedback@pse.com](mailto:feedback@pse.com)

**For gas odors or emergencies, call 911.**

Thank you.



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As Seen In

# EnergyWISE

Natural Gas Safety

## Working around utilities? Call BEFORE you dig.

**P**SE urges you to be cautious any time you are digging or working around electric or natural gas facilities. Accidentally digging into a utility line can not only be very expensive, it can be dangerous. State law requires that you notify the Utilities Underground Location Center before digging down a foot or more, even on your own property.

It's a good idea to know if your title report lists any easements on your property, and where they are. Also, if you maintain the street right-of-way as part of your lawn, expect that it might contain underground utilities.

It's never a good idea to plant trees or shrubbery over a utility or large trees\* near electric lines. Permanent planting and structures limit the utility's ability to maintain or repair its facilities.

If you are planning projects that include digging, such as providing the trench for the



*Digging up underground utilities can be dangerous and expensive.*

*Excavar donde estan las líneas de utilidad es peligroso y costoso.*

service line to your home, or even planting a tree, be sure to have the underground utilities located before you dig. It's a free service provided by your local utilities. Just call 1-800-424-5555 at least two business days in advance. Once the utilities are marked, dig carefully with a shovel, and dig by hand within two feet of them.

*\* For smaller trees, see Planning Trees at [www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com) in the electrical safety section of Brochures Online.*

## Many gas appliances WORK during power outages

**W**hen electricity goes off, so do furnaces, fireplace inserts and some ovens, which have electric-powered blowers or controls.

However, many natural gas appliances work without electricity. These include:

- ¥ Most natural gas water heaters
- ¥ Gas logs and some gas fireplaces
- ¥ Natural gas barbecues
- ¥ Gas cooktop ranges and top burners on gas stoves (may need to be lit by match if they have electronic ignition)

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## You are responsible for MAINTAINING the gas piping you own

For your safety, PSE regularly inspects its underground natural gas pipelines in the street as well as the ones to the meter against the wall of your home or business. You or the property owner, however, are responsible for maintaining the gas piping that begins at the outlet of the gas meter and extends either above or below ground to natural gas-burning appliances at your home or business. In some cases, home and property owners may own buried

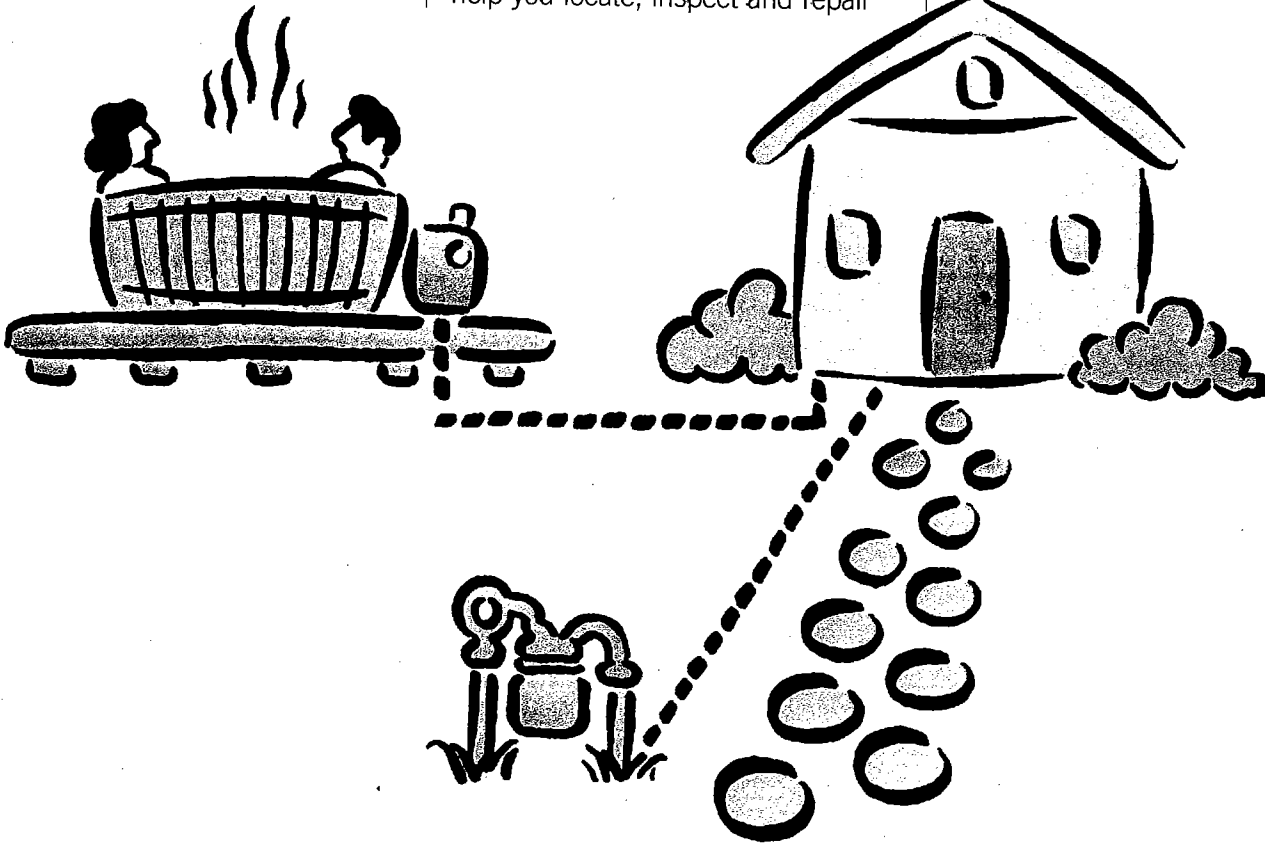
natural gas piping, which, if not properly installed or maintained, may corrode or leak. Some examples of customer-owned buried piping may involve pools or hot tubs, natural gas barbecues and detached buildings with natural gas appliances.

The pipes you own should be inspected periodically for leaks and corrosion. Make sure repairs are done immediately to correct any unsafe condition. A licensed plumber or heating contractor may be able to help you locate, inspect and repair

buried natural gas piping.\*

If you plan to dig or build near your buried gas piping, remember to locate piping in advance by notifying the Utilities Underground Location Center toll free at 1-800-424-5555. Excavate carefully around the marked lines by using a hand shovel.

\* NOW: A location service can help locate the piping and a corrosion control company can help inspect and repair it.



## Get your natural gas furnace READY for chilly weather

Inspecting or servicing your furnace now before the weather turns cold may help prevent inconvenient and expensive breakdowns. It also could help you avoid a long wait for needed service during the heating season when repair agencies are busy. Here are a few tips for getting ready.

### Run the furnace to make sure it's operating properly.

Check for unusual odors or sounds, or warm, moist air escaping into the house from the furnace or vent pipe. These are signs that your furnace needs immediate attention by a furnace technician. Contact a local heating contractor, or we can provide you with our comprehensive service called The Checkup that includes

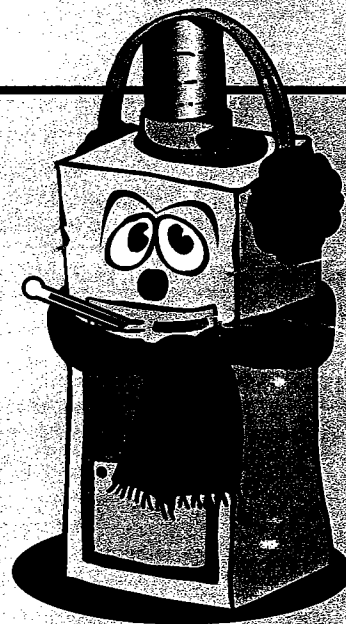
carbon monoxide testing. Just call 1-800-562-1482 to schedule an appointment.

### Check the vent pipe.

Check the metal or plastic vent pipe to make sure it is connected securely to the furnace and shows no signs of damage, soot, rust or corrosion.

### Check the chimney.

If your furnace vents through a masonry chimney, open the clean-out cap near the base of the chimney and remove loose mortar and debris. If there is a considerable amount of debris, have the chimney examined by a chimney professional. Also be sure to check the outside of the chimney for structural damage.



### Replace the filter.

Clean or replace the filters at least three times during the heating season. Changing or cleaning your filter can save up to 2 percent on your heating costs.

### Clean the area.

Clean the area around the furnace and water heater to prevent fire hazards. Keep furniture or rugs from blocking the flow of air from registers.

## Carbon monoxide risks higher with winter heating and closed houses

Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.

It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid and gaseous fuel. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a potential CO source.

When appliances are kept in good working condition, they produce little CO. Improperly operating

appliances can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home. One sign of incomplete combustion with natural gas is a yellow rather than blue flame.

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**Never burn charcoal inside.**  
The carbon monoxide it creates can kill you.

**Nunca use su parrillera adentro de su casa.**  
El monóxido de carbono que se produce puede causar la muerte.

# Natural gas odor makes it to detect

Natural gas is a safe, clean and efficient fuel when properly contained and used. In its natural state, natural gas is tasteless, colorless and odorless, but PSE adds a harmless, distinctive odor

for your safety. If you ever smell a rotten egg smell, it may mean there is a natural gas leak. Enough odorant is added to natural gas so that a person can detect it at concentrations far below combustible levels.

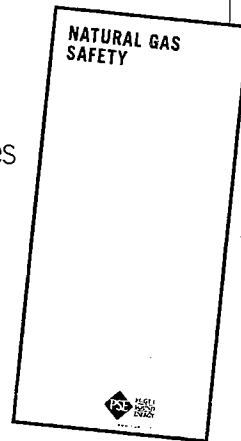
**Instead, open doors and windows to ventilate the area\***. Leave the area and call PSE immediately at 1-888-225-5773. Our personnel are available 24 hours a day to respond to any emergency call.

Using your nose isn't the only way to detect a natural gas leak. A leak in an underground service line may be indicated by a hissing sound, bubbles rising in a puddle or dirt blowing upwards. If you notice any indication of a gas leak, call immediately.

Our Natural Gas Safety scratch-and-sniff brochure containing a sample of the distinct, rotten egg odor is available free by calling 1-800-562-1482 option 1; or online at [www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com) in the Brochures Online Section.

\* NOW: Leave the door open on your way out.

- Leave** the home or building
- Do not** turn on/off any switches or appliances
- Do not** use the telephone
- Do not** smoke
- Do not** light a match or do anything that might create sparks



\* **NOW:** First call 911. Then call PSE at 1-888-CALL-PSE.

As Seen In

# EnergyWISE

Electrical Safety

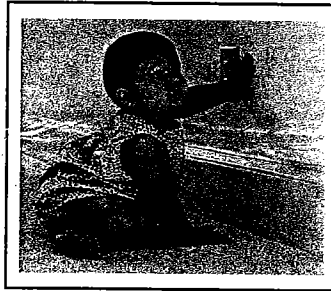
## Use CAUTION and EDUCATION to protect children around electricity

**C**hildren are often fascinated by electrical appliances and outlets. Some of the common ways smaller children can be injured are:

- ◆ Placing objects such as scissors and keys into outlets
- ◆ Biting cords or cord sockets
- ◆ Dropping appliances into water

### Some of the ways you can help protect your children include:

- ◆ Use UL listed child-tamper-resistant outlet protectors to help keep children from inserting objects into outlets. Many small children can defeat ordinary outlet protectors, sometimes by watching and imitating their parents. Teach them not to play with plugs and outlets.



- ◆ Switch off electrical appliances and unplug them after use. Unplug extension cords and power strips when not in use, or cover them with outlet protectors also.
- ◆ Replace frayed or cracked cords which could cause a shock (or a fire).
- ◆ Insert plugs fully into outlets so that no part of the prongs are exposed for small fingers to probe.

- ◆ Keep appliances such as hair dryers, radios, and portable heaters out of the bathroom (children have been electrocuted by pulling a hair dryer into a bath, even though it was switched off).
- ◆ Make sure your home has ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry and other wet areas. These lifesaving outlets detect and interrupt even tiny amounts of current much faster than circuit breakers.
- ◆ Outside, keep tree houses away from trees with power lines near them. Never touch a power line with a pole, stick or tree limb.
- ◆ Stay clear of power lines and never try to retrieve a toy, kite or balloon that is entangled in, or anywhere near power lines.

## A few reminders about summer SAFETY and ELECTRICITY

**A**ugust is usually our warmest, driest month for outdoor activities and, with fall on the horizon, it's catch-up month for outdoor chores. As you tackle outdoor cleaning and maintenance, remember to watch out for overhead lines and other electrical hazards.

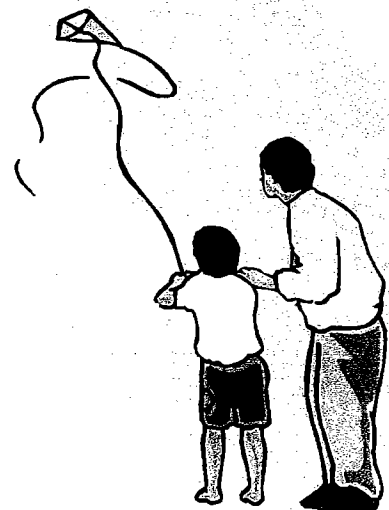
Also remember that aluminum and water are two particularly good conductors of electricity. Be especially

careful using aluminum tools around electricity, or when using electrical appliances or tools in close proximity to water, such as around pools and spas or when using a pressure washer.

If you're using long handled tools, aluminum ladders, or poles for activities like painting, tree-trimming and working on the roof, keep yourself and your equipment a minimum of 10 feet from electrical lines. According to the National

*Continued on inside*

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## Outlet OVERLOAD – HOW MUCH is too much?

**A**s you look at your outlets with duplex plugs and power strips sprouting from them, consider this: a 4-year study by the National Fire Protection Agency showed cords and plugs caused 17% of home electrical fires and 28% of related deaths.

Most household outlet circuits are 120 volt and usually have 15 ampere (amp) circuit breakers. Kitchens, laundry rooms and garages may also have 240 volt outlets for larger appliances. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are required in kitchens, bathrooms, outdoors and special applications, act like a circuit breaker by switching off the power to prevent shocks.

Circuit breakers and fuses are safety devices. Don't try to circumvent them. If a circuit breaker trips or a fuse blows, move an appliance or equipment to another circuit before closing the circuit breaker or replacing the fuse.

### How to know if you have too many appliances on a circuit

- Check the fuse or circuit breaker size (in amps) of the circuit. This is your rating.
- Check the wattage on each appliance nameplate. Don't forget your lights.
- Add up the total watts for appliances and lights that you might operate at the same time.
- Divide the total number of watts by 120 volts to get the amps.
- Total amps should be less than the number of amps the circuit is rated for.
- If operating properly, a circuit breaker will trip or a fuse will blow if you exceed its capacity.

**Rule of thumb: Limit lights and appliances operating at one time on a 120 volt 15 amp household circuit to not more than 1,800 watts.**

Because circuits can degrade over time, their capacity may be somewhat lower.

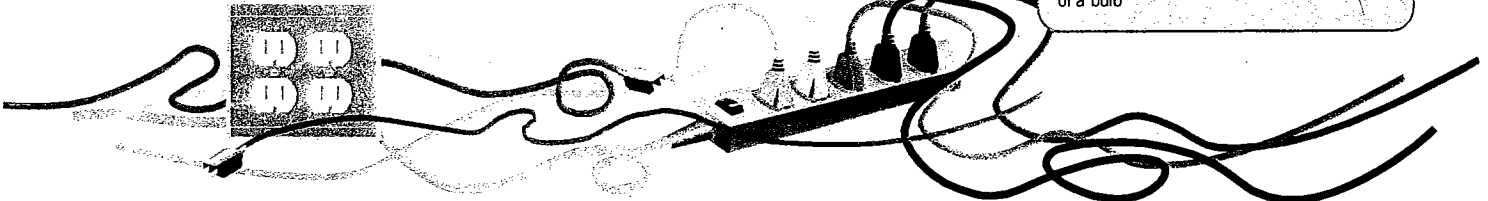
### The simple power formula

**Volts x Amps = watts**  
Example: 120 volts x 15 amps = 1,800 watts capacity

**Total watts ÷ volts = Amp size required for fuse or circuit breaker**  
Example: 1800 watts ÷ 120 volts = 15 amps

APPLIANCES	TYPICAL WATTAGE
Clothes dryer, electric	4,850
Coffee maker	1,200
Computer equipment	600
Dishwasher	1,200
Portable electric heater	1,500
Hair dryer	1,400
Iron	1,000
Lights, 10 100-watt bulbs (1750 lumens each*)	1,000
Lights, 10 32-watt CFL bulbs (1950 lumens each*)	320
Television, color	150
Refrigerator/freezer	750
Washing machine	500

\* Lumens are the measure of the light output of a bulb



## A few reminders about summer SAFETY and ELECTRICITY

*Continued from front*

Consumer Product Safety Commission, ladders and antennas account for 5% of electrocution deaths.

Wet skin or wet surfaces can greatly increase the chances of electrocution. Keep hands and feet dry and wear rubber soled shoes while using electrical products near water.

Be alert to your children's activities. Don't allow children to fly kites, balloons and model airplanes near power lines. Never try to retrieve a toy or kite that is entangled in or anywhere near power lines. And be sure to construct tree houses, jungle gyms and swing sets well away from power lines and the green metal transformer boxes protecting electrical equipment.

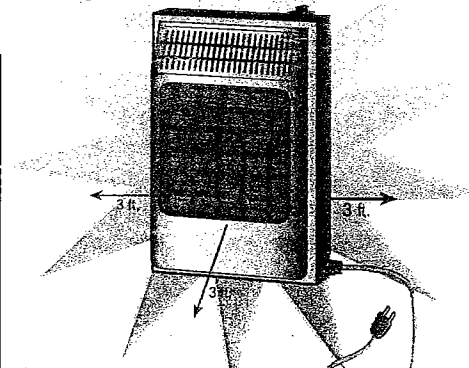
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# Use care and GOOD SENSE with Supplemental HEATING

The majority of home heating fires involve supplemental space heaters according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The most common problems leading to fires are failing to clean devices, placing them too close to combustible items, flaws in construction or design, and improper fueling.

All space heaters can be used safely if close attention is paid to the rules of safe installation, usage, and maintenance. NFPA makes these recommendations:

- When buying a new unit, make sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.
- When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shut-off features.



**#1**  
**Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.**

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- For wood or coal stoves or fireplaces, have a professional inspect the chimney, chimney connector and other related equipment every year, and have them cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline. Use only if such heaters are legal in your community.
- Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas (propane) heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

## Extend your REACH not your RISK

Extension cords extend the reach of power tools and other products within our homes and to the outdoors. However undersized extension cords, worn or frayed cords, or the way they are placed create hazards. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following recommendations for the purchase and safe use of extension cords:

- Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis.
- Don't overload extension cords by plugging in appliances that draw a total of more watts than the rating of the cord.
- Teach children not to play with plugs and outlets, and ALWAYS cover unused outlets with electrical tape or plastic caps.
- Use only three-wire extension cords for appliances with three-prong plugs. Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong, which is a safety feature designed

to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.

- Use polarized extension cords with polarized appliances.
- Use special, heavy duty extension cords for high wattage appliances such as portable electric heaters and freezers.
- When using outdoor tools and appliances, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.
- Insert plugs fully so that no part of the prongs are exposed when the extension cord is in use.
- Never use an extension cord while it is coiled or looped. Never cover it with rugs or other objects. Never place it where it is likely to be damaged by heavy furniture or foot traffic.
- Don't use staples or nails to attach extension cords to a baseboard or to another surface. This could damage the cord and present a shock or fire hazard.

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The Consumer Products Safety Commission recommends replacing cracked or worn extension cords with new, 16 gauge cords that have the listing of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, have safety closures, and other safety features.

**Pick the right extension cord for the job**

The smaller the gauge number of the extension cord, the greater the capacity. Read manufacturers' directions. 50-foot cord example below.

DUTY	GAUGE	MAX. CAPACITY
Light	16 ga	7 Amp or up to 840 watts
Medium	14 ga	12 Amp or up to 1440 watts
Heavy	12 ga	15 Amp or up to 1800 watts

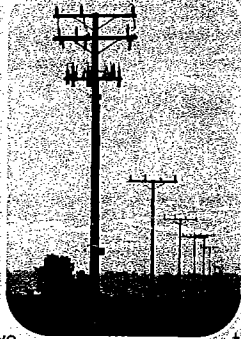
Check appliance label for its wattage and make sure the rating on the cord to be used is the same or higher. Choose a thicker, heavier gauge cord for

# Power pole ACCIDENTS and downed lines

What you should know; what you should do.

If a car hits a power pole and knocks down power lines, immediately call 911 and Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773 (or the local electric utility if you're not in PSE's territory). Bystanders should never touch the vehicle, try to open its door, or reach inside it if there are lines down. Stay well clear until the utility company confirms that the power has been shut off.

Assume any downed line is an energized power line. If a power line falls on your car while you are driving, slowly drive on until you are completely clear of the line (but do not drive over it). If your car is immobilized, stay in it until help arrives.



Call for help from a cell phone, if you have one.

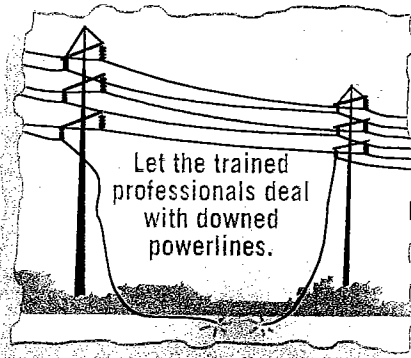
If you need to escape a vehicle, such as with a car fire, jump clear of the car. Electricity is not only traveling through the vehicle, but may also be traveling in the ground around the area. Keep your arms crossed over your chest while you jump, and both feet together. Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Once you land on the ground, shuffle clear of the area, keeping both feet together, on the ground, and touching at all times. Continue shuffling until you're at least 30 feet from the accident site.

## Downed power lines are DANGEROUS even at a distance

Downed and dangling power lines are one of the risks of the winter storm season. Assume any downed line is an energized power line. That means it is "live" and can electrocute you if you touch it, even if you touch it with a tree limb or pole. Do not try to move downed lines with fiberglass, wood or metal poles, or with ladders or rope.

First, call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773\*\* (or the local electric utility if you're not in PSE's territory), and 911 if there is immediate danger. Do not attempt any action until utility crews have given you the OK or removed or repaired the line.

The area around a downed line can also be energized and dangerous. The danger area extends approximately 30



feet from the line. Our wet winters with water on the ground make the danger worse because water conducts electricity. If you have wandered into the danger area, stay out of water and walk by shuffling, keeping both feet on the ground and touching at all times, or hopping with both feet together. Continue

shuffling or hopping until you are at least 30 feet from the downed line.

If a power line falls on a vehicle, do not approach, touch it, or touch anyone inside. Both you and they could be seriously shocked or electrocuted. If a power line falls on your car while you are driving, slowly drive on until you are completely clear of it (but do not drive over it). Stay in the vehicle until you are clear of the area, or have been assured by trained personnel that the area is safe.

The hardest part about dealing with downed lines is standing back and letting trained professionals deal with it. But your life — and others' — could depend on it.

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## Clothes dryer LINT can be a FIRE HAZARD

**C**lothing and the lint it leaves behind in clothes dryers can be a fire hazard. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), dryers were the third most common type of equipment involved in home fires, right behind stoves and fixed area heaters. They accounted for an average of 14,800 home fires per year during the period studied.

### To keep your dryer running safely, NFPA advises:

- ✓ Clean the lint filter before or after each use.
- ✓ Wipe away any lint that has accumulated around the drum.
- ✓ Don't run the dryer without a lint filter.
- ✓ Never leave the dryer running when you go out in case it malfunctions.
- ✓ Make sure that the air exhaust vent pipe is unobstructed and the outdoor vent flap opens readily.
- ✓ If the dryer is vented with a flexible plastic duct it can be a potential fire hazard and should be replaced with solid or flexible aluminum duct.
- ✓ Keep combustibles, such as boxes and clothing, away from the dryer.
- ✓ Make sure the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its electrical needs.
- ✓ Have a professional inspect gas dryers periodically to make sure the gas line and connection are intact and leak-free.

Don't let fire start in your home because you didn't clean your lint filter or maintain your dryer.



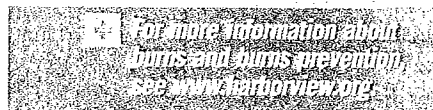
Keep the lint filter clean

Never leave home while your dryer is running

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## DON'T delay in treating burns

Burns from electrical and chemical contact are quite serious. Even very small electrical and chemical burns should be seen by a physician, according to the UW Burn Center at Harborview, one of the premiere burn centers in the U.S. Below are their guidelines for burns of all types.



### Emergency Care for Burns

- ✦ Run cool, not cold water over the burn area for a few minutes.
- ✦ Do not apply ice to the burn. Ice can lower the body temperature and make the burn worse.
- ✦ Do not apply creams, ointments or salves. Such products hold heat in the tissue and can make the burn deeper.
- ✦ Do not break any blisters until seen by a physician.
- ✦ Cover with a clean, dry cloth.

### Call your physician or go to your local emergency room for the following burns:

- ✦ Any electrical or chemical burn, no matter what size, since damage might not be immediately obvious
- ✦ All other burns bigger than the size of the person's palm
- ✦ Burns that are circumferential (wrap around an arm or a leg)
- ✦ Burns that involve the face, airway, hands, feet, major joints or groin
- ✦ Burns that are white, gray, leathery or painless

## When Mother Nature chills out

**P**uget Sound Energy is ready to respond quickly whenever a severe storm results in an outage, but your own preparation can help you stay safer and more comfortable.

### Before a storm

- \* Stock up on canned and other non-perishable foods, and a manual can opener.
- \* Set aside one gallon of bottled water per person per day.
- \* Have an emergency kit that includes a first aid kit, flashlight and extra batteries, battery-powered radio or emergency radio, matches and a fire extinguisher.
- \* Keep an adequate blanket supply for extended outages. (blankets and cardboard can be hung over windows and doorways to minimize heat loss.)
- \* Attend a generator safety seminar if you plan to use a generator. Call 1-888-225-5773 for dates and locations.

### For your safety

- If you see a downed power line, don't touch it or go near it. Downed lines may still be live and can energize the ground around them. Keep others away and call us at 1-888-225-5773.
- During the heating season, take preventive measures against possible exposure to carbon monoxide through proper maintenance of your natural gas equipment:
  - ¥ Change or clean your furnace filter two to three times during the heating season
  - ¥ Inspect chimneys, vents and flues to find and correct corrosion, loose fittings and obstructions
  - ¥ Be alert to the signs of improper functioning: moist air escaping from furnace or unusual sounds or odors from the heating system

### If there is a power outage

- \* Report power outages or downed lines by calling PSE toll free at 1-888-225-5773. The automated outage reporting system allows you to input outage information directly and helps speed restoration.
- \* Use a battery-powered radio or TV to get updates. (PSE provides regular reports to local media during storms.)
- \* Turn off or unplug appliances so they are not damaged by an electrical overload. Leave one light switch turned on to indicate when power is restored
- \* Avoid opening and closing refrigerators or freezers. A closed freezer will stay cold for up to 12 hours.
- \* Open faucets slightly so they constantly drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- \* Don't cook indoors with a charcoal or gas grill as they generate poisonous carbon monoxide fumes.
- \* If you use a portable home generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions.



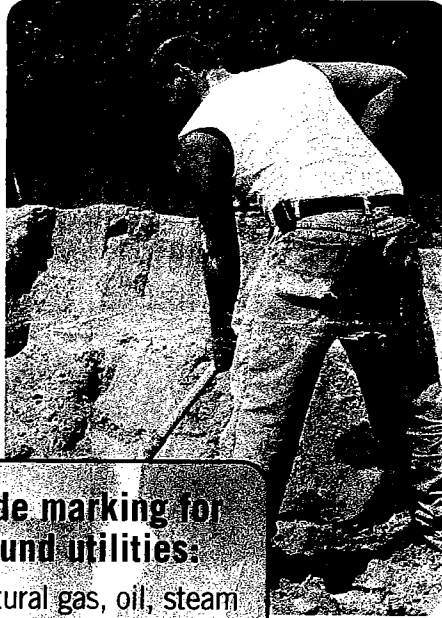
# Yard projects? Call BEFORE you dig

Every day, accidental damage by homeowners or contractors to underground utilities like buried natural gas pipe, power or telephone cable interrupt vital services, delay projects and sometimes result in serious injury.

If your summer activities include building a new fence or deck, planting trees and shrubs, or if you are excavating on a commercial property, remember there is a Washington state law requiring you to notify the local utilities before beginning a digging project with a depth of 12 inches or more on your property. Notify the Utilities Underground Location Center toll free at 1-800-424-5555 at least two business days before you dig. Each utility will come out to mark the location of its underground utilities all free of charge. This free service helps protect people from injuring themselves or damaging underground utilities, such as natural gas pipes, electric wires, water and sewer lines and television and telephone cables.

Once the lines have been located, it's important to dig carefully by hand within 24 inches of the marked utilities.

What should you do if a buried utility line is damaged? Call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773. Do not try to fix the damage. PSE crews will repair its utility lines. If a natural gas line has been damaged, let the natural gas escape into the atmosphere. Do not cover or hide the damage. Follow all the safety steps when you smell or detect natural gas escaping.



## Color code marking for underground utilities:

<b>Yellow</b>	Natural gas, oil, steam
<b>Red</b>	Electric
<b>Orange</b>	Telephone or cable
<b>Blue</b>	Water
<b>Green</b>	Sewer



**Utilities Underground  
Location Center  
1-800-424-5555**

# Heat SAFELY in Winter

Space heaters are a leading cause of home fires during winter months but most accidents can be prevented with a few simple precautions.

-  Buy only heaters tested by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
-  Choose heaters with automatic shutoff features.
-  Be sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.
-  Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.
-  Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated.
-  Never use liquified-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

These tips are provided by the Office of the Washington State Fire Marshall.



# Earthquake PREPAREDNESS

## prepare family and homes

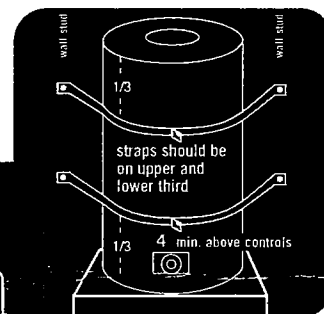
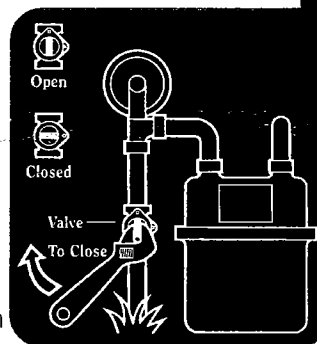
**W**ith April designated by Gov. Gary Locke as Disaster Preparedness Month, now is a good time for your household to be prepared for an earthquake. Here are some tips about your natural gas and electric service:

### Before an earthquake

- ✓ Check your water heater and forced air unit to make sure they are securely fastened to wall studs with straps. Secure your water heater with metal straps available at most hardware stores.
- ✓ For natural gas appliances, including water heaters, make sure they are connected to the fuel source with flexible lines. Flexible connectors should be installed on all gas appliances and the water heater.

### After an earthquake

- ✓ Check the natural gas pipes and appliances for damage, and be alert to the smell or sound of escaping gas. Do not use matches or light switches until you are sure there is no gas leaking.
- ✓ If you do not smell or hear any natural gas leaking, then you do not need to shut off your gas. To do so could deprive you of service unnecessarily.
- ✓ If there is damage to your natural gas equipment, use a Crescent or open-ended adjustable wrench to shut off the meter with a quarter-turn of the shut-off valve on the gas meter. (See illustration)



✓ Once the meter is shut off, leave it off. Contact Puget Sound Energy to restore your service.

- ✓ Check for broken electrical wiring. If there is damage, shut off the electrical current in your home by going to the circuit breaker panel and switching off the small breakers, then the switch labeled Main.
- ✓ Avoid spilled water until your electricity has been turned off.
- ✓ Stay clear of downed power lines.

## Emergency alert radios COST LESS in September

**E**mergency radios that will alert you to hazards of all kinds will be available at discounted prices during the month of September at many retail stores as part of a major state-wide push to make these radios as common as smoke detectors to help protect lives and property. They are part of an all-hazards warning system used for floods, weather-related events, hazardous materials releases, AMBER child abduction alerts and terrorism.

NOAA Weather Radios are already a major part of the Emergency Alert System. A warning alarm that comes on automatically and instantly alerts citizens

of life-threatening events, and guidance on actions to take.

The radios will provide alerts on a state-wide basis, or you can limit alerts to specific regions. Some include AM/FM radio capabilities also. Regular prices range from \$40 to \$100 and up, depending on features. They will be discounted during September, which is NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Month.

This program is supported by Washington State Emergency Management, King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, and the National Weather Service.

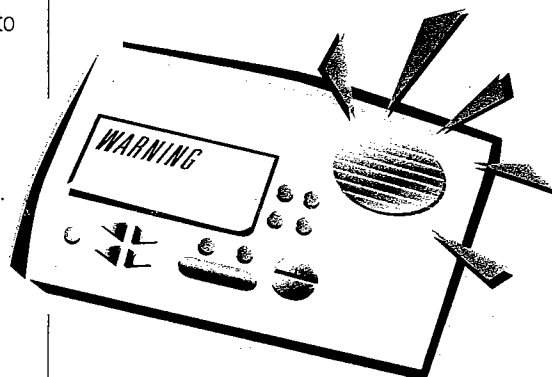


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