



## News Release

### Puget Sound Energy Preparing for Storm, Offering Emergency Tips to Customers

SEATTLE, Dec 14, 2006 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Puget Sound Energy: Utility Preparation / Response

-- Puget Sound Energy is mobilizing resources - including crews from outside the region - to prepare for the windstorm the National Weather Service predicts could be one of the fiercest in years. We want to do everything we can to combat storm damage and restore customers' power as quickly as possible. If the storm predicted to hit Western Washington this afternoon through Friday morning as severe as expected, widespread power outages from falling trees and branches are likely to occur. Depending on the storm's severity and duration, it's possible the outage-restoration effort could last several days before all customers regain electric service.

-- Approximately 185 two- to four-person crews -- some from as far away as Nevada and California -- are being mobilized by PSE to repair power lines and restore customers' electric service.

#### Tips for Customer Preparation / Response

Puget Sound Energy encourages customers to be prepared for the possibility of extended power outages when major windstorms hit the region. Here are some helpful tips for weathering a storm:

-- Assemble an emergency kit. It should include a flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, a fire extinguisher, bottled water, nonperishable food, and a battery-powered radio or TV. (PSE issues regular outage-restoration reports on our Call Center telephone system and Web site, as well as to the local TV, radio, and newspapers.)

-- Have an adequate blanket supply on hand for extended outages. If necessary, blankets or cardboard can be hung over windows and doorways to minimize heat loss from a designated "warm" room.

-- Avoid opening and closing refrigerators and freezers more often than necessary. Food in a closed refrigerator will stay cold for about 12 hours.

-- Turn off lights and unplug all appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, such as computers, to prevent an overload on your circuits when electric service is restored. Leave just one light on to let you know when service returns.

-- Do not use charcoal or a gas grill to cook indoors. Both can cause a buildup of poisonous carbon monoxide gas.

-- If you use a portable home generator, read the manufacturer's instructions - well before a storm hits -- for the safe operation of the generator. Connect the generator through a transfer device, not to your home or building's main wiring system, to ensure there is no electricity feedback into the power distribution system where crews are working on the lines. Do not operate generators indoors or in enclosed spaces to avoid the build up of carbon monoxide.

-- If you encounter a downed power line, stay well away from the line or anything it may be touching. Immediately report the location of fallen wires to Puget Sound Energy by calling 1-888-225-5773, or call 911.

SOURCE: Puget Sound Energy

Puget Sound Energy  
Roger Thompson, 888-831-7250