



News Alert

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Riverside Public Utilities Encourages Preparation For Heavy Rains & Wind That Could Disrupt Energy Services

Riverside, Calif. – As the National Weather Service has issued alerts and a winter storm warning for a weather front expected to bring heavy rain and high winds to the Inland Empire over the next several days, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is encouraging customers to be prepared in the event that energy delivery services are disrupted due to storm activity.

“With storms like the one expected, high winds can throw tree branches and other debris into power lines, or even tip trees over into the lines and cause service disruptions,” said RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran. “So it is important that our customers are aware that this may happen, and that they are prepared to safely get through any outage periods that might occur.”

On August 29 last year, a “super storm” hit Riverside without warning, bringing with it triple digit temperatures, hail, and several inches of heavy rainfall in just over an hour, causing energy service disruptions to more than 10,000 RPU customers, leaving behind flooded streets and underground electrical vaults and snarling traffic with signal outages.

This week’s storm report from the National Weather Service is calling for upward of 2.5 inches of rainfall in the inland and coastal regions today through Sunday, March 2. “We know that this storm is coming,” Balachandran said, “so it is important to take steps in advance to prepare wherever possible.” During these damaging storms some of those steps include:

- Being alert at traffic signals. Watch for cross traffic and pedestrians in the crosswalks.
- Shut down or unplug appliances to avoid damaging them from electrical surges.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and away from pools of water.
- If turning circuit breakers off/on, DO NOT stand in water when doing so.
- If outage extends for a longer period, use perishable food first. Most foods in refrigerators can last 4-6 hours without power. Those in freezers can last 1-2 days if properly stocked.

While portable generators are helpful tools in outage situations, they must be used properly to avoid injury or death. Always read operating manuals and use and store generator fuels outside only. Never wire a generator to a home’s electrical system, use them inside, or in enclosed spaces.

For additional storm news, emergency preparedness alerts, tips and more from RPU and the City of Riverside, visit www.ReadyRiverside.com, or contact the city’s Call Center by dialing 311 (or 826-5311).

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.