

Camaloch Inclement Weather Information NewsLetter

November 18th, 2021

The following letter contains important information regarding some of the seasonal storms and weather that are likely to hit Camaloch during the Fall and Winter.

Information

In the event of any emergency situations, Camaloch will send out updates via email and post on the Nextdoor website.

Snow

In the event of snow, Camaloch has signed a contract with a snow removal service. They will be removing snow from selected areas in the association. They will plow and add de-icer in crucial areas including:

- The Camaloch Entrance area
- All Roads on Hills
- Around Lochwood and Loch Lane
- Up most of Camaloch Dr.

The snow plow will do what they can to minimize drifts of snow in front of driveways.

Power Outages

When power is out please call PUD to report outages or any downed power lines. In the event of a power failure, the phones in the association and office do not function. Specific information about the power outage from this week can be found later in this email.

It is also important that you are aware that during a power outage, the Camaloch gate will automatically open and stay open.

Water Outages

When our Power is out, so is the power to our main water pumps. We do have a small engine driven pump that keeps some pressure in the lines.

During the power outage on Nov 15-16, the engine driven pump functioned well, but a bad valve restricted water flow. This resulted in water pressure that was so low that many homes had no pressure or just a slight trickle. This issue has been addressed and should not cause a problem in the future.

If the power is out, please use water as sparingly as possible. (ie for drinking water and flushing toilets.)

Wind

After this last windstorm, it is a good time to have the health of your trees assessed by a professional. Dead and diseased trees can cause problems for your neighbors.

All Association homes are responsible to clean up and dispose of yard waste from your own yard. While Camaloch staff will clear the streets and common areas, we cannot haul off or dispose of yard waste.

Regarding the Power and Water Outage on November 15-16

The following was written by one of our board members to explain the circumstance regarding the water outage on Nov 15-16.

Camaloch Power Outage November 15-16

During the power outage of November 15-16, there was a major outage at our pump house. The engine driven pump was the only source of power to pressurize our system. The community's water pressure was a trickle in some sections and no pressure in others.

After an hour the power came back on around the pump house, but the water pumps did not function. It was assumed that the three-phase power for our pump motors was not restored by the PUD, while the single phase to our homes was restored. This was incorrect. The problem at the pump house was later determined to be in the control panel for the pumps.

If you look at the transformers around Camaloch there are normally 1 per power pole. The power pole feeding the pump house has three giving us our three-phase power for our pumps at the correct voltage.

What is the difference between single and three-phase power? Single phase is the power you have in your homes. It is 120/240 volts. It is a two-wire system with a ground and is for "normal" household and business use. It normally is not used for large electric motors.

The three-phase motors at the pump house are 277/480-volt 3 phase 3 wire with a ground. Three-phase motors are more efficient, and powerful than single-phase motors. This gives the motor more power and "longer" operating life.

As mentioned, the loss of three-phase power was the first reason for the power failure in the pump-house. In addition to the power outage, a damaged valve caused our water pressure and water flow to be lower than usual. The engine driven pump was turned on

within minutes of the power loss and was functioning fine, but the broken valve restricted the water flow and caused low pressure in our system. The result of the low pressure was a vastly decreased amount of water being provided to homes. Many homes reported having no pressure at all.

This valve is now repaired and functioning properly. In the event of another outage, the engine driven pump should allow all homes to have some pressure.

We do ask association members to use water sparingly during outages. This will allow the water pressure to stay high enough for all homes to have at least some pressure.

Below is information from PUD's most recent newsletter

Be Prepared for Storms!

Sleet, rain and wind, oh my! November means storm season is officially here, and the PUD is ready to respond if falling trees and limbs cause your lights to go out. But there's plenty you can do now before you lose power to prepare for outages.



Stock up on supplies: Make sure to have 3 days of food and water on hand in case you lose power. Consider stocking some food that doesn't need refrigeration or heat to prepare.



Prepare an emergency preparedness kit now! Visit our [website](#) to find out what items should be included in your home kit so that you aren't caught by surprise during a major outage.

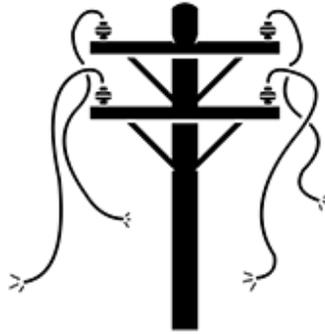


Make sure you have meds: Whether it's medication for you, your family members or your furry friends, it's important to make sure you have medicine for all members of your household.



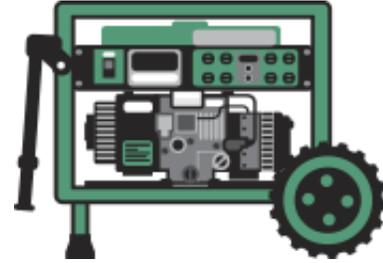
Have a Plan B:

Extended power outages are possible during windstorms, especially in more remote areas of our service area. It's important to know what you're going to do in case of an extended outage, especially if you or a loved one uses special medical equipment. Set up a backup place to stay with family or friends or know where local shelters are located. Make sure to have contact information on hand.



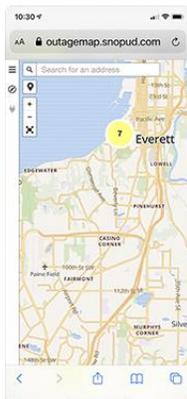
Stay away from fallen power lines:

If you come across power lines that have fallen, always stay at least 30 feet away and call 9-1-1. The safest thing to do is assume all power lines are alive and can be extremely dangerous.



Consider a backup power source:

Purchase a portable generator or a portable battery power station to power your electronics in case the electricity goes out. Do NOT place a portable generator inside your home or plug it directly into your home's electrical system. Have a licensed electrician install a transfer switch to prevent back-feed problems that could electrocute line workers or neighbors.



Visit Our Outage Map

Report your outage and stay updated on outages at our [Outage Map](#). You can follow the progress of your repairs with our outage tracker and get an estimated time of restoration (except during major storms when conditions change rapidly).