

Coastlines

News and information for Customers of Central Lincoln People's Utility District



February 2009

If You've Got A New Phone Number...

"The system gathers critical information that is sent immediately to our dispatchers..."

Back in the "old days," a typical home had one telephone, permanently mounted in a supposedly convenient place like the kitchen wall.

Now, it's not unusual for a home to have a landline, several fixed or cordless extensions, two or three cell phones, a pager, and a computer with e-mail and a copier/printer/fax machine.

So communication is a lot easier now, right? Well, not exactly. The key to communication is knowing how to make contact, like with phone numbers, addresses, etc.

In those "old days" we mentioned, the single phone number that belonged to a family could last for several generations.

In these days of technological advances, phone numbers come and go at a bewildering pace.

Which brings us to the point of this article. We now have an automated power outage reporting system, in response to the many, many customers who've been frustrated by getting a busy signal while trying to report an outage.

The automated system will ensure that nobody gets a busy signal any more when reporting an outage. You won't be talking

to a live person, but the system gathers critical information that is sent immediately to our dispatchers and entered into a database that allows us to respond to and repair outages more quickly.

The system automatically recognizes your phone number, and attempts to match it to an address in our database. In order for the system to work at maximum efficiency, it's important that we have your correct phone number matched to your address.

(In case you're reporting an outage from a phone that's not at the outage location, such as a friend's phone, the system will still allow you to do that. It will simply prompt you to enter the information about the outage location.)

We don't have occasion to call our customers very often, so we don't really know if all the phone numbers we have on file are correct or not. If you've recently changed your land-line number or added a cell phone, please let us know.

You can help us give you better outage service by filling in the form on the back of this sheet. Just list your Customer Number, Name, and give us up to two phone numbers associated with the location represented by that Customer Number.

If you have more than one account with us, just write any other Customer Numbers, your Name, and up to two numbers tied to that location on a separate piece of paper, and send in with your payment. ■



Central Lincoln People's Utility District Phone Number Update Form

Enter up to two phone numbers that are associated with the location covered by one specific Customer Number. *(If you have more than one account with us, please make duplicate copies of this form, or call your local Central Lincoln office.)*



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, THEN CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE AND SEND IT TO US WITH YOUR BILL PAYMENT.

Customer Number *(On the upper portion of your bill)* _____

Customer Name _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Land Line Cell Phone Other _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Land Line Cell Phone Other _____

Is Your TV An Energy Hog?

Different kinds of TV sets use different amounts of energy. And with all the new kinds coming on the market, it pays to do a little homework.



There are four basic types of TV to date, and the technology type has a big impact on electrical usage.

Traditional cathode-ray tube (CRT) TVs shoot electrons from the back of the tube into the phosphors embedded in the front.

Plasma TVs ionize gas to create colors in a million or more tiny pixel cells. Both CRT and plasma sets require more electricity to create a brighter image.

Liquid crystal display (LCD) and rear-projection (RPTV) sets, on the other hand, use a powerful fluorescent backlight, or bulb, that either passes through an LCD panel with three color filters, or that reflects off of a digital-light-processing chip that has a million or so miniature mirrors and a spinning color wheel. In either case, they consume the same amount of power, whether they're displaying a dark or a light scene. That's because the backlight or bulb

is always running at maximum power.

(NOTE: Many flat-screen LCDs have adjustable backlights that you can turn down to consume less power and produce a dimmer image, while some newer LCDs, including ones that use light-emitting diode [LED] backlights, can be set to dynamically adjust the backlight intensity and use less power in dim scenes.)

Of course, screen size also plays a big part in how much energy your TV will use. In general terms, the bigger they are, the more energy they use. And be aware that many new TVs have a "retail" and a "home" setting that you select during setup. The "retail" setting uses maximum light output to compete with other sets in a retail store environment.

The Energy Star Program, overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency, has also established new standards for TVs based on screen size and resolution capability. So you can see that there are a tremendous number of variables in electrical usage. Do your homework, read the labels, compare energy usage, and make sure your new TV isn't an energy hog.



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