

# Watts - Up

A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF OKANOGAN PUD    ISSUE 10-01

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## Welcome to 2010

It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming you to 2009 and now another year has come and gone. Looking back at all that took place in 2009, let's hope that 2010 is a little less eventful and a whole lot more successful. At this time we'd like to thank all of you, our PUD customers, for your continuing support in 2010. As always our goal is to provide dependable, non-profit utility services governed by, and for the benefit of, our customers in a safe and environmentally-responsible manner. Thanks for taking the time to read your Watts-Up Newsletter. We are excited about the New Year and look forward to serving you in 2010.

## WINTERTIME DRIVING TIPS

### AVOID BEING FRONT PAGE NEWS THIS WINTER.

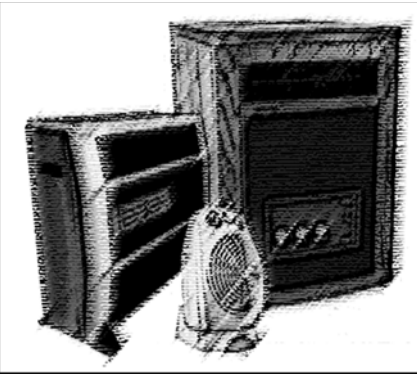
This picture brings to mind the importance of practicing safe driving; especially during the winter. Icy roads and limited visibility, due to weather conditions and shorter daylight hours, increases the likelihood this might be your car in the picture. Clear ice and snow from all the windows, not just the windshield. Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. Maintain a safe following distance; give other vehicles plenty of room. Accelerate and brake carefully and slowly.

In the event this becomes you in the picture, following certain steps where live powerlines come into contact with a vehicle you are riding in may save your life. The person that was inside this vehicle should have remained there until utility crews arrived and de-energized these lines. If the driver had contacted the wires or the vehicle while exiting the vehicle he probably wouldn't be alive today. As it turned out, he was very fortunate and did not suffer any injuries. People are reminded they are safest if they remain inside the vehicle. The rubber tires insulate you from potential shock while outside the vehicle the ground may be charged with electricity; enough electricity to cause serious life threatening injuries. So remember, stay inside the vehicle until power has been disconnected. If you are forced to leave the vehicle, due to imminent danger, follows these rules. Jump as far away from the vehicle as possible, landing on both feet at the same time. Shuffle away from the vehicle without picking up either foot. This reduces the likelihood of shock hazard. Do not at any time touch a powerline, even if you are convinced it is not energized.



## Shopping for a Portable Electric Heater?

These tips will help you save money and energy, while staying comfortable and safe.



- Most electric space heaters are 1,500 watts, and all 1,500-watt electric heaters produce the same amount of heat.
  - All electric space heaters are 100% efficient, because all of the heat produced is released into the room.
  - Any 1,500-watt portable electric heater will cost about 6.6 cents an hour to operate (at 4.4 cents/kWh).
  - An electric space heater can help you feel more comfortable, but they won't save money unless you turn down your central heating system and use the heater in just one room.
- *Important:* You can purchase an effective, lightweight, safe, 1,500-watt electric heater for under \$100 at your local hardware store.
  - *Most Important:* Follow the safety rules listed by Underwriters Laboratory:

### More on Portable Electric Space Heaters

U.S. Department of Energy:  
Portable Heaters Factsheet  
[www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/space\\_heating\\_cooling/index.cfm/mytopic=12600](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/space_heating_cooling/index.cfm/mytopic=12600)  
Space Heaters (Consumer Reports®, October 2007)  
Check your library or order online  
[www.ConsumerReports.org/](http://www.ConsumerReports.org/)

### Be a Smart Buyer!

Remember that not all product endorsements are true.  
You can purchase an effective, safe and lightweight 1,500-watt electric heater for under \$100 at your local hardware store. The energy cost will be the same as any other 1,500-watt electric heater.

## § TAX CREDITS AND UTILITY REBATES §

Are you thinking of improving the energy efficiency of your home this year. Wondering how you can afford it? You might be interested to know that there is help available to you in the form of PUD rebates and federal tax credits to do just that.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law in February of 2009, provides tax incentives to homeowners who install certain qualified energy efficiency measures to their primary residences. For more information, contact your tax consultant or go to the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov> or the Alliance to Save Energy website at <http://www.ase.org>.

Additionally, the PUD is offering rebates for insulation and window upgrades to qualifying PUD customers. Check this out at <http://www.okanoganpud.org> or give us a call at 509.422.8427 or 509.422.8428.

