

Chugach customers willing to help in a gas emergency

Contingency plans to deal with a gas shortfall could include requests to curtail energy use.

As reported in the September Outlet, Chugach and other organizations in the Railbelt are making plans to deal with a potential shortfall of natural gas this winter. Although not considered likely, all agreed it's best to be prepared.

The overall response plan identifies a descending hierarchy of actions to address a potential gas delivery problem. The system operators at gas production facilities, the LNG plant, gas and electric utilities have a number of tools they can use to compensate for changing conditions. This is always the first line of defense, and historically has resolved delivery problems before they affected individual homes and businesses.

In laying out a comprehensive response plan, it was recognized that there could be times when system operators may also need the help of the public to stabilize the system. If so, it is

Energy Disruption Customer Action Plan		
CONDITION	MEANING	CUSTOMER ACTION
Green	Stable	Use energy wisely; be conservation minded Your utilities can provide tips on saving energy
Yellow	Caution	Set thermostat to 65 degrees in living areas, and 40 in the garage Lower water heater setting to "warm" or "vacation" Minimize usage of natural gas range Postpone doing laundry and dishes Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics
Red	Alert	Set thermostat at 60 degrees in living areas (55 if away) Turn water heater gas valve to "pilot" Do not use natural gas fireplaces, decorative heaters or gas grills Consolidate household activities into as few rooms as possible Use the microwave for cooking

expected that government officials would issue a public appeal using the above "stoplight" chart.

In a recent survey Chugach residential members indicated their willingness to help out. A few key findings follow.

During a developing situation, if asked:

- 83 percent said they'd lower their thermostat to 65 degrees
- 80 percent said they'd lower their water heater from "hot" to "warm"

- 97 percent of the people with gas stoves said they'd minimize their use
- 98 percent said they'd turn off unused lights and electronics
- 72 percent said they'd postpone doing laundry and dishes

During an emergency, if asked:

- 78 percent would lower their thermostat to 60 degrees
- 50 percent would turn their water heater setting from

"warm" to "pilot"

- 94 percent would consolidate household activities into as few rooms as possible
- 75 percent would use the microwave for cooking
- 66 percent would forego the use of natural gas fireplaces, heaters and grills

The survey of 268 residential members was conducted by Helenthal and Associates between Sept. 8 and 13, and has a margin of error of +/- 6 percent.

Chugach considers 'Simplified Rate Filing'

Chugach is considering using a method called "Simplified Rate Filing" (SRF) to adjust energy and demand rates in the future. This would be a change from the rate cases Chugach currently files to periodically adjust rates. The primary reason for the change is to enable Chugach to make moderate base rate changes routinely and with less cost, than the current system allows.

SRF provides for a streamlined regulatory process, and is a methodology available only to electric cooperatives. Under SRF, the Chugach board has the

major responsibility for rate adjustments. Rate changes still need to be approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, just as they are today. Chugach is the only electric co-op in the Railbelt not currently using SRF.

While SRF allows more timely changes, it has its limitations.

If the Chugach board makes the decision to change to the SRF method, Chugach would make filings every 6 months. The filings could adjust rates up or down, or leave them unchanged. While there is no limitation on decreases, increases under SRF

would be limited to no more than 8 percent in a 12-month period or 20 percent in a 36-month period. Additionally, there are limitations to the specific things that can be changed under SRF. Significant changes to rate design or allocation between customer classes for instance, would require a separate rate filing.

The board will address this action at two upcoming meetings, first at the Nov. 11 Finance Committee and again at the Nov. 19 board meeting. Giving notice to members that the board is considering adopting SRF is part of the process.

SRF provides a means to make more timely changes to base rates for demand and energy, but would not change the way Chugach adjusts rates to reflect increases and decreases in the price of fuel and purchased power. Those filings and the changes that result would continue to be done quarterly.

For more information on SRF, see www.chugachelectric.com or call (907) 762-4736.

Chugach and other utilities join forces

Smart Power program expanded

Chugach, Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) and Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) have united to help customers by expanding Smart Power, an energy-efficiency and conservation program originally established by Chugach.

The utilities are enhancing the program's compact fluorescent light (CFL) promotion and will contribute \$3 to buy down the cost of each 4-pack of SATCO-brand CFLs through Dec. 31, 2009.

Chugach, MEA and ML&P are partnering with local retailers for the special pricing, including Brown's Electric, Fred Meyer, Spenard Builders Supply, Target, Walgreens and Walmart. The promotion is good at retail locations in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough areas served by the participating utilities.



Pre-winter maintenance tips

Winter's coming, and it's time to start doing some pre-winter maintenance. Here are some suggestions that may also save on your electric bill:

Insulate. Check the attic, outside walls, walls next to unheated areas, floors above unheated areas and foundation walls.

Install storm windows and doors or use plastic sheeting.

Weatherstrip and caulk. Check for drafts around windows, door frames, foundation cracks and electrical outlets.

Replace heating system air filters often.

Clean dust and lint away from appliances on a regular basis so the motors run more efficiently.

Make sure the gaskets on refrigerator and stove doors are tight.

Inspect your roof. It plays an important role all year, but during the winter roofs in colder climates can be subjected to some pretty harsh mistreatment. Snow and ice can add a lot of weight to your roof, and if it isn't able to support that weight, breaches, leaks, or even a collapse can occur.

By getting a roof inspection, you are taking a step to reduce problems in the winter, but you are also doing your home a favor for the rest of the year by identifying small problems before they become large ones.

For more energy saving suggestions, go to www.chugachelectric.com.



October is national cooperative month. Each year co-ops across the nation celebrate their accomplishments and contributions.

Chugach is a cooperative. It exists to provide power to its members. You became a member when you signed up for electrical service, completed an application and paid a \$5 membership fee. As a member you are a part-owner of Chugach, you {2131} can vote for

the board of directors and you also receive a share of margins (or profits as other businesses call them), that are returned once the board approves a capital credits retirement.

Chugach incorporated in March 1948 and has grown from nine members to a membership of more than 66,000. The fee to become a member in 1948 was \$5, the same as it is today.

Self-service payment options

Self-service payment options using a credit card, debit card or electronic check can be made on the Internet at www.chugachelectric.com or on Chugach's Interactive

Voice Response system at 762-7803. Payment options are available for a fee of \$3.50, paid directly to a third party vendor. Chugach does not receive any of the fee.

Save money and time

You can save money and time by prepaying your annual Chugach Electric bill. Get your annual PrePay quote by calling Customer Service at 563-7366. Prepay your

bill, and save \$25 plus the expense of making monthly payments. It's a great way to use some of your PFD and not have to worry about your electric bill for a year.

Member number hide-n-seek

Your member number could be worth a \$100 credit on your Chugach electric bill.

Each month Chugach puts a randomly selected member number into the Outlet copy in brackets like this {0123456}. Your member number is the root of the account

number printed on your bill. It's the set of numbers preceding the dash and three sub-account numbers. If you find your member number, call Chugach's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize. You may win for either the current or immediate past month's issue of the Outlet.

Contact us

Main number 563-7494
Toll free (800) 478-7494
Member Services 563-7366
Member Services fax 762-4678
24-hour payment line 762-7803
Credit 563-5060
Power theft hotline 762-4731
Danger tree hotline 762-7227
Street light hotline 762-7676
Underground locates 278-3121
Regulatory Commission of AK (800) 390-2782
or 276-6222
To report a power outage
In Anchorage 762-7888
Outside Anchorage (800) 478-7494

Hours

Main office:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Member Services lobby: 5601 Electron Drive
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Member Services phone:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Chugach Outlet

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Monthly residential service costs (based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.00
Energy charge \$0.07181 x kwh =	\$50.27
<i>(Proposed energy charge pending RCA approval)</i>	
Fuel \$0.05330 x kwh =	\$37.31
Purchased power \$0.00452 x kwh =	\$ 3.16
<i>(Fuel & purchased power adjustments effective 10/1/09 - 12/31/09)</i>	
Subtotal	\$ 98.74
2% MOA Underground Charge =	\$ 1.97
RCC charge \$0.000432 x kwh =	\$ 0.30
Total bill	\$101.01

Personnel policy

"It is a policy of Chugach Electric Association, Inc., to recruit, hire, train, compensate and promote persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, veterans status, age or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law." Chugach is also an affirmative action employer."

Corporate Mission: Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

Corporate vision: Powering Alaska's future

