

**SMUD**

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

The Power To Do More.®

March 2009

www.smud.org

# Connections

## SMUD has a bird's eye view on safety

For almost three decades, SMUD has worked to protect birds from deadly interactions with electrical equipment. But with more than 430 miles of overhead transmission lines and nearly 4,000 miles of distribution lines, keeping birds safe is no easy feat.

While we can't do away with the substations, lines and poles that bring power to the homes and businesses in our community, SMUD can and does take steps to make that infrastructure less of a hazard to our area birds.

SMUD's efforts to protect birds have a payoff for customers, too, since avian-caused outages are responsible for 2-3 percent of power interruptions every year.

The approach to protecting birds is both preventive and reactive. Power equipment that may cause or has caused bird deaths is identified either by customers or by SMUD staff. The situation is assessed, and the infrastructure is retrofitted with special equipment to discourage its use



**SMUD crews remove an osprey nest that presented an electrocution hazard.**

as a perching or nesting spot.

SMUD's Avian Protection hotline – **(916) 732-6966** – is available 24 hours a day to report outages caused by birds, including those building nests on utility poles or in substations. SMUD staff will then go out to assess and address the situation.

SMUD is not alone in its concern for avian species. Industry-wide efforts to protect birds – and avoid avian-related outages – have picked up steam in recent years, with the

creation of an organization of utilities, industry foundations and government agencies all working together to help protect birds.

For more information on SMUD's avian protection plan and industry-wide efforts to minimize bird-power conflicts, visit **smud.org** and click on the "Community & Environment" tab. ■

## Services and information just a click away

What can you do in a just few minutes on **smud.org**? You'd be surprised!

You can pay your bill, start, stop or move your service, or find advice on energy-efficient appliances and home improvements, including special offers, rebates and financing. And that's just the beginning.

Looking for a getaway? Check out SMUD's recreational facilities – they're as close as the Rancho Seco Recreation Area near Wilton. A little longer drive will get you to Crystal Basin



Recreation Area, with year-round outdoor activities northeast of Placerville.

Rather stay indoors? Look into one of our many free classes on ways to make your home more comfortable and well-lit while saving money. Also, be sure to check out the some of the emerging technologies that are likely to shape our energy future.

SMUD is your customer-owned electric service, and **smud.org** is your online source for all things SMUD. ■

**Contact us:**

Customer Services: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683)

Hours: M-F 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Pay online: [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org)

# When flying a kite, keep safety in mind

Even in our high-tech times, there's something very satisfying about the simple pleasure of flying a kite on a breezy spring day. But if you're getting the urge to send your spirit soaring on a string, be sure you play it safe when it comes to power lines.

Some tips to keep you safe (parents, make sure your kids know these, too!):

- **Build or buy kites made of wood or plastic.** If your kite has a tail, cloth only. Never use metallic thread, wire or wire-reinforced string to control your kite since these can cause a fire, serious injury or death if your kite flies into a power line.
- **Fly kites in dry weather only,** in wide, open areas away from power lines.

Your kite is not worth your life, so don't try to retrieve it if it gets tangled in overhead wiring or drops into a substation – and don't even touch the string. Call SMUD at **1-888-742-SMUD** (7683), and we'll send someone out to retrieve your kite safely.



**Never use metal components in the tail or the strings to control your kite.**

For more tips on safety around electrical equipment in, around and outside your home, please click on the "Education & Safety" tab at [smud.org](http://smud.org). ■

# Go clean and green, and save money too

We all have choices on how we use electricity. SMUD can help you save money on your bill while improving your home's comfort and protecting the environment.

Before you purchase or replace equipment, appliances or electronics for your home or business, check with SMUD first for information, rebates and financing on qualified ENERGY STAR® and other high efficiency products. Also, consider simple changes like switching to compact fluorescents in the lights you use most. You'll save about \$30 or more on electricity costs over the life of each bulb.



For more ways to save, visit [savewithsmud.org](http://savewithsmud.org).

As your customer-owned electric service, SMUD is leading the way toward a cleaner future. With new investments in wind, solar and other renewable energy sources, we are on track to meeting our goal of reducing carbon emissions to just 10 percent of 1990 levels by the year 2050.

Working together, each of us doing our part, we can keep costs low, maintain reliable electric service and help build a cleaner, healthier environment for tomorrow. ■



### Environment

Save energy, money and water. ENERGY STAR® clothes washers use less energy and water. Qualified models are eligible for SMUD and local water agency rebates.



### Community

Plant a FREE shade tree from SMUD. When properly planted, mature shade trees can save you up to 40 percent on cooling costs.



### Savings

Recycle your refrigerator. Get \$35 from SMUD when you recycle your old, inefficient fridge or freezer. Save up to \$125 per year on energy costs. Call **1-800-299-7573**.

## SMUD Board of Directors

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The SMUD Board of Directors holds regular meetings twice a month: first Thursdays at 6 p.m. and third Thursdays at 9 a.m. Meetings are streamed live and archived on the SMUD Web site ([www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org)). Location: SMUD Headquarters Auditorium, 6201 S St., Sacramento. Times and locations subject to change. For information and meeting agendas, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org), or call the SMUD Board Office at (916) 732-6155.