



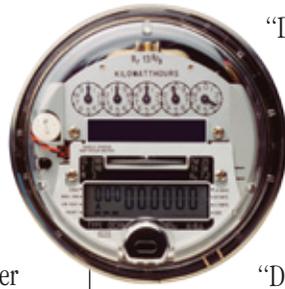
It's the Summer (Baseline) Season

This edition of The FLASH comes with your bill for the April-to-May period. It signals the end of the winter season. The next bill you receive on a residential account will be at Summer Baseline rates.

About 90% of our customers live in separately metered homes, apartments, and condominiums. These customers are served under Alameda Municipal Power's D-1 or D-2 schedules, which include a

The average residential customer in Alameda consumes approximately 398 kilowatt hours per month, year round. Nationally, the average residential customer uses well over twice as much!

During the summer months, the bill for this amount of electricity would be \$51. Across the Estuary, the bill would be over \$13 higher, some 25% more! Alamedans



"D1H." "D1B" means that you receive basic electric service and are eligible for 259 kilowatt hours at our lowest domestic rate during the summer months.

"D1H" means that you have permanently installed electric space heating and receive 317 kilowatt hours at our lowest domestic rate.

If you have any questions about your Baseline amount, please call our Customer Service Representatives at 748-3900.

Residential Baseline Allowances			
	Winter	Summer	
Tier I	from 1 to 310 kilowatt-hours	from 1 to 259 kilowatt-hours	10.287 cents each
Tier II	from 311 to 404 kilowatt-hours	from 260 to 336 kilowatt-hours	11.690 cents each
Tier III	405 kilowatt-hours and above	337 kilowatt-hours and above	18.293 cents each

"Baseline" Rate. The Baseline Rate is intended to allow enough energy at a minimal price for heating, lighting, and cooking.

The Baseline amount decreases during the summer months to account for seasonal changes in energy needs. The best example of a seasonal change is lighting. Because there are more hours of daylight in the summer, we need to turn on lights for fewer hours.

can be proud of AMP's lower rates!

If you have permanently installed electric space heating as your primary heat source, you rely more heavily on electricity to provide your basic needs. You therefore are entitled to an increased "Baseline" amount. You may already receive this amount. Check the upper right hand portion of your latest Alameda Municipal Power bill. You will see the words "Rate Code" and the letters "D1B" or

Budget Workshop

In late April, the Public Utilities Board conducted its Annual Budget Workshop, which included a rate adjustment proposal for implementation in July. While details have not been finalized, the rate adjustment would increase the typical monthly household electric bill by approximately \$1.51. Action is scheduled on the adjustment, as well as the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget, at the June 28th meeting. Copies of the proposed budget and rate presentations are available on our website, www.alamedamp.com.

May is Electrical Safety Month!



MAY 2010 National Electrical Safety Month

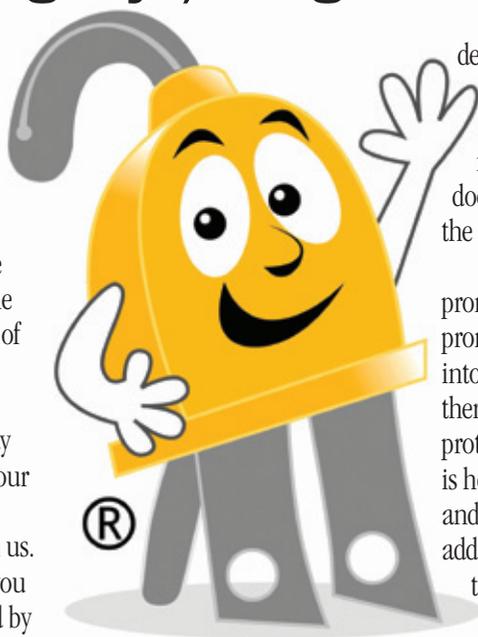
Mr. Plug says, "Plug in to Electrical Safety!"

According to the most recent statistical data from the National Fire Protection Association, an estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in homes each year, claiming more than 450 lives, injuring more than 1,400 people, and causing more than \$1.4 billion in property damage. In the workplace, electrical hazards are the cause of another almost 4,000 non-fatal injuries

That's why, during May, Alameda Municipal Power is joining the Electrical Safety Foundation International in encouraging our consumers to "Plug Into Electrical Safety." Here are just a few of the ways you can join us.

Check that all the electrical products you use, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA, or ETL. All electrical products and extension cords should be kept in good condition. If damage is discovered, take the item to an authorized repair center or cut the cord and dispose of it safely.

Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis, so unplug and safely store them after every use. Remember, don't place power cords and extension cords in high-traffic areas or un-



der carpets, rugs, or furniture, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.

Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet. Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets but should not be forced. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets to protect children. If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it professionally checked. Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips.

Make sure your home electrical system includes ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which prevent accidental electrocution by shutting off the circuit if they sense a "leak" of current off the circuit, and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which help prevent fires by shutting off the circuit if they sense arcing where electricity has to jump a gap. Consider install-

See Electrical Safety Month on page 2

Remember, Balloons, Kites, and Power Lines Don't Mix!

Spring is here, summer is coming, and kids of all ages are spending more time outdoors. But there's something we all need to remember; kites, balloons, and power lines are a dangerous combination!

In the past, balloons have caused thousands of dollars of damage when they have contacted power lines. When balloons contact power lines, they short out conductors, causing power outages, voltage fluctuations, and electrical fires. Burning lines can fall and cause death or injury. If an outage does occur, the user, purchaser, seller, and manufacturer of a balloon may have to pay for any damage that results.

Kites and power lines have long been a dangerous combination. Kites should be flown away from television and radio antennae, as well as power lines. Make them only with dry string, paper, and wood. Don't use any metal! Also, they should be flown in dry weather only. Metal and wet string are excellent paths for electricity, and their contact with power lines can be fatal!



The best advice on balloons and kites is the same: keep them away from power lines. If a balloon or kite becomes entangled in a power line, immediately call Alameda Municipal Power on 748 3902; never try to free it yourself.

Deliberate or not, interfering with an electric system is dangerous and expensive. Our policy is to prosecute those responsible for recklessness or vandalism and to

recover damages. Because of the chances for death, injury, and great loss, the Public Utilities Board has authorized a \$250 reward for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of anyone causing a power outage. Under State law, those who lose a metallic balloon can expect a fine of \$100 for the first offense.

The State of California has prohibited the sale or distribution of balloons attached to metallic ribbons. Metallic balloons must have a weight attached and carry a label warning about the dangers they pose to power lines.

The price of a power outage is secondary to the far greater potential for severe injury or death resulting from electric shock. Please help us safeguard all children by cautioning that balloons, kites, and power lines never mix. 

While You're are Away

The Memorial Day holiday marks the start of summer vacations. Travelers are often surprised when their electric bill does not drop greatly while they are away.

Although you may not be home, your refrigerator, freezer, and clocks still are running. Electric water heaters will continue to keep water hot. If your electric space heater does not specifically have an "off" position, it may be on without your knowledge. Many "instant-on" televisions allow a small amount of current to pass through, even when the power is off. Aquariums and waterbed heaters can



add to a vacation electric bill. Other small appliances, such as rechargeable flashlights, consume electricity.

It may seem obvious advice; however, make sure to turn off or disconnect all unnecessary electrical devices before you hit the road. Unplug your television and other equipment. If your trip takes you away from home for more than 3 days, turn off your electric water heater. You will be saving money, saving the environment, protecting your appliances, and have the peace of mind that your home is safe and secure.

Remember, electricity also can protect your home while you are not there. Think about using timers inside and sensors outside for security lighting. Electricity is at your home even when you are not! Let it work for you while you are on vacation. 

Thinking about Going Solar?

If you've given thought to installing a solar photovoltaic (PV) system, don't miss out on rebates available from Alameda Municipal Power!



During 2010, we hope to provide \$420,000 in rebates and benefit from a 174-kilowatt power resource offset. That power would be the equivalent of serving 58 typical Alameda households. By the year 2018, we expect to rebate \$4.2 million for solar PV installations and offset the need to acquire 2,127 kilowatts. Alameda Municipal Power offers an up-front rebate, currently \$2.42 per AC watt of system installed capacity, for residential and commercial installations smaller than 50 kilowatts. We also offer a performance-based incentive (PBI), currently \$0.27 per kilowatt-hour, for commercial installations larger than 50 kilowatts. The PBI is paid quarterly over 5 years based on actual generation of the solar system.

Rebates are available on a first-come, first served basis.

There are specific requirements for system installations, including efficiency, and design parameters. Please log on to the Alameda Municipal Power web site, www.alamedamp.com for exact details. 

CLIP and KEEP!

Important AMP contact numbers:

Customer Service 748-3900
 After Hours/Emergency 748-3902
 TDD (hearing impaired) 522-7538
 E-mail info@alamedamp.com
 Internet www.alamedamp.com

The FLASH is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box H Alameda, CA, 94501-0263 or by email to mccabe@alamedamp.com.

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Gregory Hamm, Ph.D., P.E., President
 Ann L. McCormick, P.E., Vice President
 Peter W. Holmes, Commissioner
 John R. McCahan, Commissioner
 Ann Marie Gallant, Interim City Manager

ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL POWER

Girish Balachandran, General Manager

Electrical Safety Month from page 1

ing GFCIs and AFCIs on all circuits except those serving major appliances, which may cause nuisance tripping. Test your GFCIs monthly and after any electrical storm.

Electrical systems installed during the 1970s and earlier were not designed to handle the demand that we place on them today. To ensure the electrical safety of your home, consider an electrical safety inspection performed by a licensed electrician.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's web site at esfi.org. 