



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

June 2001

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

Energy concerns rise as summer heat returns to the Central Valley

Feeling uneasy about the prospect of more power outages as this summer gets hotter and hotter? You're not alone.

Last month, nearly 100 local residents turned out for an energy townhall meeting to find out how to deal with the expected outages.

"We are preparing for the worst, and hoping for the best," said PG&E's government relations specialist Carey Madill.

While most utility officials agree that we will probably experience some power outages this summer, they remind us that the more energy we conserve, the fewer and shorter power outages we will have. It is particularly important to conserve energy during the peak use hours of 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Water

While water pressure for City of Modesto residents shouldn't be a problem, city officials ask that residents conserve water as well as energy during the summer months. The City uses \$1.4



These local residents are rolling with the outages and taking advantage of an afternoon breeze outside.

million worth of electricity each year to run the City's water system.

Public Safety

On a positive note, outages will not affect our 911 emergency system and our jails will remain secure. Our police department will send extra patrols to blackout areas to maintain public safety during rotating outages.

Prepare Yourself

Of course, everyone should be prepared with backup plans to deal with the

Modesto City Council -- 571-5169

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Tim Fisher
Councilmember Bill Conrad
Councilmember Bruce Frohman

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SUMMER

Are you ready?

Whether it's a planned rotating outage or a car hitting an electrical pole, we all need to be prepared for electricity outages at all times of the year. Some things that may make a power outage easier to bear are a:

- **battery powered flashlight.** Remember to check your batteries often or keep extra batteries handy.
- **battery-operated alarm clock or electric clock with battery backup.** If you're worried about your alarm not going off due to an outage while you are sleeping, a battery-powered alarm clock may help you sleep easier.
- **extra supply of drinking water.** It is important to protect yourself and your family from heat exhaustion and dehydration by drinking plenty of water.
- **portable radio.** Many local radio stations broadcast information about upcoming rotating outages and the expected duration of the outage.

outages. See the tips listed on page 3 for what to do in a power outage and ways to save on your energy bill.

Prepare Your Business

The Modesto Police Department is helping local businesses reduce lighting without compromising public safety or security.

For more information about what to do in your office when the lights go out, check out the state's website at www.flexyourpower.ca.gov.

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Making sense of California's power shortage; What you can do to help

David Paladini

"David, turn out your light." This is what I used to hear from my mom and dad at least 10 or 15 times a day. But now that I have studied this power crisis I am learning to do it without being told as often.

"Why should we turn off our lights?" some people are thinking.

Well, one reason is because the state of



California, and more locally, our own city of Modesto, is going through a power crisis.

We keep hearing about, or experiencing these power outages. The reason we are experiencing these power outages off and on is because the state is short on energy.

Many people don't realize that the rotating outages are intentional. The reason that they report them on radio and TV is so that we are able to prepare for them by making sure our flashlights are ready, our computers are turned off, and other precautions are taken care of.

With warning, factories and businesses can shut down their lines and computers before they are unexpectedly turned off.

I think of the energy crisis like a lawn sprinkler sys-

tem with way too many sprinkler heads. If you just look at the main pipe nozzle it would look like you would have a steady flow of water, which would reach the entire of the yard. But then as you follow the pipe along, it branches off to the sprinkler heads, again and again. Pretty soon you don't have a steady flow - just a dribble. Some of the sprinkler heads don't even get a dribble.

That is what is happening right now with our power. We used to have a steady flow of power, but now we have just a dribble. The rotating outages help to evenly distribute power during times when the need is the heaviest. It is like plugging up some of the sprinkler heads so that a stronger flow can get to the others.

Modesto has grown a lot in the last 30 years! The population in Modesto in 2000 was 188,300. It was 164,746 in 1990; 106,963 in 1980 and 61,712 in 1970. That means the population has tripled in the last thirty years. Our larger population is using much more power.

Another reason more power is be-

ing used is because of new technology, such as multiple televisions, VCRs, hair dryers, computers, CD players and other new things that people never even thought could exist 30 years ago.

So, if I were having a problem with my sprinkler system I would get a bigger nozzle at the beginning of the system to supply plenty of water to all the sprinkler heads I have on it. This is what the state of California is doing by building more power plants.

In the meantime, however, we can help each get through this power crisis by unplugging things that are not being used and paying attention to utility guidelines

about the best times to do laundry, run the air conditioner and so on.

Some businesses have already taken action and are only using half of their lights, and I noticed that the escalators in the Vintage Faire Mall were turned off to save energy during a stage 3 alert.

We need all of Modesto's citizens to help with energy conservation so we will be able to get back on the road to having enough energy for everyone.

David is our 13-year old reporter who provides us with a youth's perspective on issues facing the city.



Households have more electric appliances than ever before.

What to do if there's a power outage in your neighborhood

A "rotating outage" is a controlled event that occurs when California's Independent System Operator (the entity that controls 75 percent of the electricity in California) calls for a Stage 3 electricity emergency.

Remember — [it] will pass shortly. If a [rotating outage] is implemented in your area, the electricity should come back on within 90 minutes. Until then, stay in the coolest part of the house. Outside, stay in the shade. Keep these tips in mind:

- * UNLESS there is an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. That number should ONLY be used if there is an emergency, or if someone is injured or in danger.
- * Slow down. Postpone any physically demanding activities for later, in the cooler parts of the day.
- * Dress to stay cool — wear loose, light colored clothing.
- * Stay well hydrated. Drink plenty of water or diluted sports drinks, especially if you're exercising. Take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors.
- * Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible.
- * Check on your elderly neighbors or those who may have medical conditions or use medical machinery that operates on electricity. Make sure they are drinking liquids and are keeping cool.
- * Listen to your body — be on the lookout for the signs of heat-related stress. Symptoms include heavy sweating, headache, nausea, vomiting, and pale, flushed skin.
- * Drive carefully. Remember that traffic signals may be out in a rolling blackout. Consider each intersection to be a four-way stop, and drive defensively.

Save electricity inexpensively

purchase inexpensive energy saving tools and equipment.

Replace air conditioner filters. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit. (Save: 1-2%)

Plug your home's leaks Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows, and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers. (Save: up to 2%)

Choose Energy Star® products

* Buy Energy Star® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your

incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with Energy Star® compact fluorescent bulbs. (Savings: for each bulb you'll save 0.2% for each hour the bulb operates on a typical day. Therefore, replacing an incandescent bulb that burns 10 hours per day will save 2%)

Cut your energy bill

These tips are designed to help you reduce your energy bills. Some measures may not be relevant depending on climate, the age of your home and appliances, and past improvements made to your home. The savings numbers are based on your total summer electric bill. Equipment mentioned must be electric powered for estimates to be accurate.

FAST AND FREE

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to reduce energy consumption while saving money. Here are some suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

Turn up your Thermostat

Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room. (Save: 1 - 3% per degree, for each degree the thermostat is set above 72 degrees)

Use your appliances wisely

To help prevent electricity outages, avoid running your appliances during peak hours, — from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — or any time an electricity emergency is declared.

* Do your laundry efficiently by

using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes. (Save: 4%)

* Line dry clothes whenever you can. (Save up to 5%)

* When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each use. (save: 0.5%)

* Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead. (save: 1%)

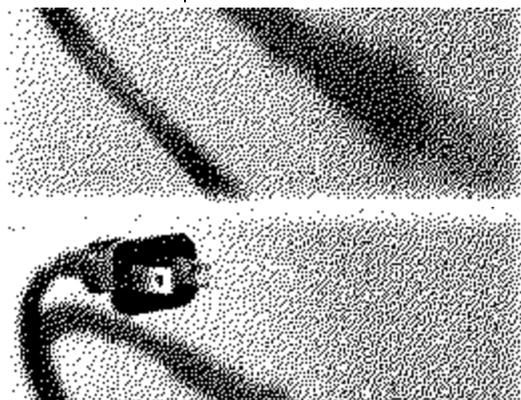
Eliminate wasted energy

* Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use. (Save: 2%)

* Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use—most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computers and printers off at the power strip. (Save: 1-2%)

* Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you \$150 per year! (Save: 10-20%)

Make a quick trip to your local hardware store to





... and the health of your community

Earth Day a winner for all

Residents who attended the Earth Day in the Park Festival 2001 were treated to information about environmental issues and many great prizes.

Longtime Modesto resident Olivia Garcia won a Black & Decker CMM1000 "Clean Green Yard Machine" donated by The Home Depot. The cordless electric mulching mower is worth \$389.

Ricky Ricketts of

Stockton won a new bike by participating in the Spyglass Search Game. The game led children to different booths throughout the park.

Other prizes were donated by Galaxy Theaters and Fun Works.

Five local residents won backyard composters at the Festival, courtesy of the City of Modesto.

Blue recycling bags now available

Recycling blue bags are now available at the new pay station at New Deal Market on Oakdale Road. The bags are designated for Modesto's residential recycling program and should include items such as glass, plastics, paper, aluminum, and bimetal cans. The commingled bags should be placed in the black garbage can along with household garbage. Residents can also pick up blue bags at:

City Hall at the Mall, downstairs next to Penny's in Vintage Faire Mall, Tenth Street Place, 2nd and 4th floors, 1010 Tenth Street, King-Kennedy Memorial Ctr., 601 N Martin Luther King Dr., the Senior Citizens Center, 211 Bodem Ave., and Police Area Command Offices at the following locations:

Northeast: 3705 Oakdale Rd.

Northwest 2005 Evergreen #500

Southeast - 1550 Yosemite Blvd.

Southwest 409 Paradise Rd.

Richland, Save Mart, New Deal, O'Brien's and Raleys also will bag your groceries in blue bags.

For more details, call the Solid Waste office at 577-5494.

Mark a curb, fight pollution

The City of Modesto's Water Quality Control Division is seeking volunteers to install Only Rain Down the Drain curb markers in your neighborhood. Please help make a difference in your community and fight storm drain pollution. Orchard Supply Hardware is also helping volunteers fight pollution. OSH donated 50 five-gallon buckets for volunteers to use for carrying supplies. Call Cheryl Heller at 577-6257 for more information.

Pay stations offer convenience

Want to pay your bills while you're out running errands? Below is a list of area stores that serve as pay stations. The name of the store is followed by a list of utilities for which the store accepts payment.

Flamingo Video—2549 Yosemite Blvd #G—City of Modesto, Modesto Irrigation District.

Mi Pueblo Food Center—1612 Crowslanding Road—City of Modesto, Turlock Irrigation District, Pacific Gas & Electric, AT&T Long Distance.

Model Pharmacy—2400 Coffee Road—City of Modesto, Modesto Irrigation District, Pacific Gas & Electric, AT&T Long Distance, AT&T Wireless, AT&T Broadband-Cable) and Pacific Bell.

Paradise Rexall Drugs—400 Paradise Road—City of Modesto, Modesto Irrigation District, Pacific Gas & Electric, AT&T Long Distance, AT&T Wireless, AT&T Broadband-Cable and Pacific Bell.

New Deal Market—832 Oakdale Road—City of Modesto, Modesto Irrigation District, Pacific Gas & Electric, AT&T Long Distance, AT&T Wireless and Pacific Bell.

Quesenberry's Pharmacy—Waterford—City of Modesto.

City Hall at the Mall—3401 Dale Road—City of Modesto, Modesto Irrigation District, Pacific Gas & Electric, AT&T Long Distance, AT&T Wireless, AT&T Broadband-Cable and soon to collect for Pacific Bell.



**MUST PRESENT COUPON
AT TIME OF PURCHASE
LIMIT 2 FLAT - BAGS PER
COUPON
OFFER EXPIRES 7/15/2001**

**Buy one regular priced flat
of flowers and get one bag
of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy
2 bags at regular price and
receive third bag FREE
Available at these local
nurseries:**

Hischier's Nursery
1520 Standiford Avenue
Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road



GOT TIRES?



The City of Modesto is hosting a
FREE TIRE COLLECTION EVENT

where residents are invited to drop off waste tires.

Date: Sat., August 18, 2001

Place: Davis High School Parking Lot

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Limits: Eight tires per coupon -- no size limit

One coupon per household. Tires with or without rims OK

**Limits will be strictly
enforced. NO tires will be
accepted without this
coupon.**

**This event is for City of
Modesto residents**

**only! Proof of residency is
required.**

**NO BUSINESSES OR
DEALERS ALLOWED**

**Questions? Call the City of
Modesto Solid Waste Office at**

577-5494

Funded by the California Integrated