

Kirkwood Power Supply Uninterrupted Despite Butte Fire

On Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at approximately 2:26pm, a large wildland fire started in Amador County, north of the Mokelumne River, and quickly grew to over 70,000 acres due to very dry conditions and moderate winds. Known as the Butte Fire, the Kirkwood Valley lost power from the grid at 6:12pm that day. PG&E's 115kV transmission power line that supplies power upcountry to areas like Pioneer, Pine Grove and Kirkwood, was in the middle of the fire area, and at that time a decision was made by PG&E to de-energize the 115kV transmission line for the safety of firefighters. This outage affected over 12,000 customers, some of whom were without power for over a week.



Fortunately for the residents of Kirkwood the District restored power within minutes using our backup emergency diesel generators. Since it was unknown how long the outage could last, District staff transitioned into emergency operations and began manning the powerhouse continuously and taking necessary

precautions such as ordering extra fuel, oil and filters, and ensuring the emission systems were working correctly in order to continue to provide power for an extended period of time. On September 17th at 8:30am (over 7 days later) PG&E was able to restore power to their system and we were given clearance to switch back to PG&E supplied power.



The switch back from Powerhouse power to PG&E (Out Valley) power was seamless and District staff were reminded how important it is to continue to maintain our generators in case of an emergency. Thank you to Electric and Propane Manager Brandi Benson and her staff for all their work maintaining the Powerhouse during the outage. A special staff appreciation lunch was given to all District staff for their work during the outage.

Sadly the Butte Fire was responsible for two civilian fatalities along with destroying 475 residences, 343 outbuildings and damaging numerous other structures. The fire was so large the President declared the Butte Fire a national disaster to provide federal financial assistance to those who suffered losses.

If you are interested in helping out those who have been devastated by this fire, donations may be made by visiting the website for The Amador Community Foundation (ACF), www.amadorcommunityfoundation.org where you will see a link for donations entitled Butte Fire Disaster Relief Fund. Every dollar goes only to relief; there are no administrative costs. The ACF is also accepting funds specifically for displaced animals, named ACART (Amador County Animal Rescue Team). To obtain further information on how you can help, please email acf@amadorcommunityfoundation.org.

Water Conservation

As we are all aware, California is going through one of the worst drought periods in its history, with record low precipitation and mandatory water restrictions. Kirkwood is not exempt from the impacts of the drought, and over the last several years the District's Board have had to implement the Water Stage Alert System. Several outreaches have gone out to the community asking members to conserve and to only water landscaping twice a week.

As usual, the community overwhelmingly responded. Currently our Well 4/5 aquifer sits at 160 feet above the pump, which compares to 127 feet a year ago, and 118 feet in 2013. This increase in our aquifer level is directly comparable to the decrease in the community's irrigation water usage. Calendar year 2014 saw the lowest use of irrigation water since our records began in 1996, a 58% decrease from 2013. Thanks to everyone in the community for your efforts this year and last year, and here's to hoping for a wet winter.



School Site Clean Up

Through a joint effort by Kirkwood Capital Partners, the District, Vail Resorts and ACES Waste Management, a large amount of old equipment and debris were removed off of the school site during the week of September 21-25.

The school site is a parcel of land off of Loop Road in between Renwick Housing and the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant, near where the community dumpsters are located.

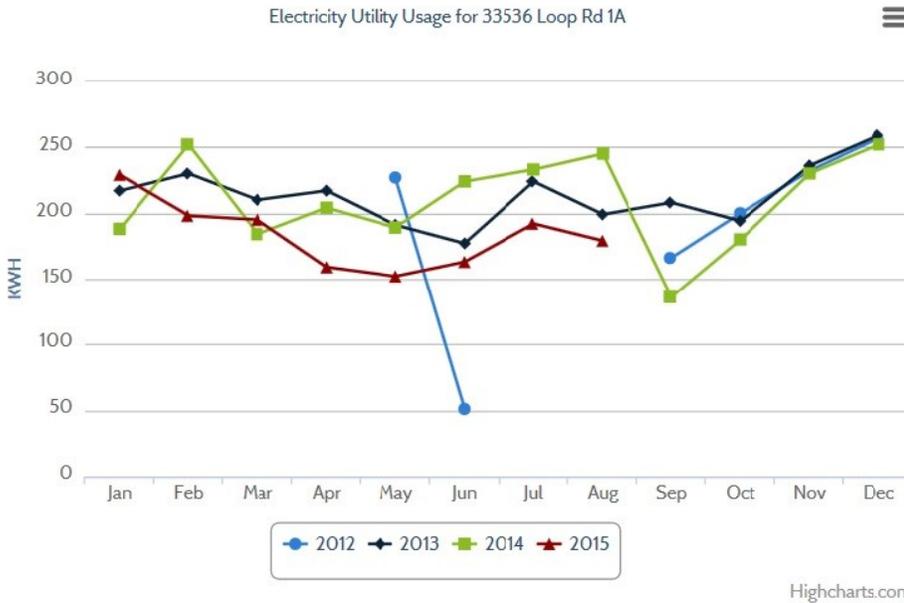
Over the years a considerable amount of old equipment accumulated on the site to an extent that it was commonly referred to as the "Bone Yard". Recently a community effort initiated by Judy Flinn and spearheaded by Standish O'Grady to clean up the site gained support.



Thanks to the commitment of Kirkwood Capital Partners, over 140 yards of old equipment and debris has been removed from the site. More work needs to be done, but this is an excellent example of the community working together for the common good!

New Monthly Bill Comparison Features @ KMPUD.com

We have implemented new charting features @ KMPUD.com that allow you to compare several different aspects of your monthly utility bill with previous months! The new features are located under the "My Account" tab on KMPUD.com and can be accessed by clicking the heading "Compare Monthly Billing". These new features, along with current features we have available including viewing billing statements, hourly meter usage information, and online bill payments, allow you to completely manage your Kirkwood utilities.



The District strives to give our customers total control of their account by providing in depth online account access. The advantages of registering your account at KMPUD.com and using all of our online account management features allow our customers to improve conservation when the property is not in use, prevent property damage in the case of water leaks, and monitor use by guests & renters to ensure reasonable usage. Customers can also choose to go paperless and receive billing statements by email.

When you register you also have the ability to sign up for community messages as well as emergency notifications which helps keep you in the loop on what is happening in Kirk-

wood even when you are away from your property for extended periods of time. We encourage all of our customers to take full advantage of your online account access @ KMPUD.com. If you have any questions or need help getting registered, please call 209-258-4444 and our customer service representatives will be more than glad to assist you!

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