

Playing it Safe Around Electricity

Loose airborne toys and metallic balloons pose a significant threat if they come into contact with power lines or electrical infrastructure. If these items make contact with or get tangled in power lines, a rapid surge in electricity may occur – resulting in power outages, fires, injuries or death.

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe while you enjoy the outdoors:

- Fly kites only in open areas where there are no overhead power lines or electric facilities.
- Avoid flying kites made with metallic wires or parts and keep strings, wooden and paper parts of kites completely dry.
- To avoid fly-away balloons from entangling with power lines, keep them tethered to a solid sturdy structure at all times, and when not in use, deflate and dispose of balloons according to manufacturers' instructions.
- Do not attempt to remove a balloon, kite, toy or any item from power lines or electric facilities. If an item gets caught, immediately notify us by calling **800-611-1911**. Our qualified service workers will get the job done safely.

To learn more about staying safe around electricity, visit us online at www.sce.com/balloons.



View and Pay Your Electric Bill Online

Looking for a faster, more convenient way to receive and pay your monthly electric bill? Enroll in SCE's free **My Account** service, which allows you to manage your account(s) online at www.sce.com/myaccount.

My Account gives you 24-hour access to your account(s) from any computer, and puts three years of usage history at your fingertips. Large business customers and Energy Service Providers should contact their SCE representative to enroll in the MyAccount service.

Once you've signed up for **My Account**, you can easily receive and pay your electric bill with **Online Billing & Payment**.

With customer safeguards in place, this free, online service will help you stay on top of your bills while eliminating excess paper waste. Select from the following options:

- **Online Billing** lets you save time while doing something good for the environment. You can view your bill online and access your account history without receiving a paper bill.
- **Online Payment** offers you the convenience of paying online, any time of day, seven days a week. You'll save on postage, too.
- **Direct Payment** automatically deducts your payment from your checking account each month, letting you stay focused on your home or business.

Simply visit www.sce.com/mybill to sign up for the plan that's right for you.



Cost-Cutting Conservation Tips

Cut your energy costs by conserving electricity – to help reduce demand on the electric grid – while keeping your business running efficiently and smoothly:

- During the summer, set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher – a comfortable temperature for most people.
- Use fans to cool just the areas you need or open windows for cross ventilation.
- Turn off lights and unplug electrical items that are not in use – many items still consume power even when turned off.
- Replace lamps with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs – that last up to 10 times longer than regular incandescent bulbs.
- Inspect and replace air-conditioner system filters regularly to allow better air flow and less power pull.
- In the kitchen, switch to induction ranges and woks that will help reduce your air conditioning and ventilation costs.
- Induction equipment is safer to use, is more energy-efficient, cooks faster, and gives off less heat – making the kitchen a more comfortable work space.

For more ways to conserve energy, save money, and stay cool, please visit www.sce.com/business.

Easy Upgrades Save Money for Howard Johnson Express Inn & Suites

At Howard Johnson Express Inn & Suites in Huntington Beach, owners Kiran and Saroj Patel made upgrades with SCE's Express Efficiency Program that improved their guest amenities while lowering their costs for electricity.

"Like most owners of hotels this size, we had no special expertise in energy management," Kiran says. "My professional association hosted a 'town hall' meeting with a representative from SCE, and we learned how measures such as switching to energy-efficient lighting and climate control could help us cut costs. The solutions were easy to implement, and rebates were available. Our next electricity bill was down almost 50 percent. The equipment paid for itself in 18 months."

The Patels have become active buyers of energy-efficient products for their hotel. "We always look for the ENERGY STAR® logo on new items because the savings always add up for us,"

Kiran explains. "Once you start paying attention to energy management, it becomes a way of doing business, and it can have an enormous effect."

Saroj agrees. "You feel like you need to ask, what's the catch? Are there going to be charges on the back end? Are there hidden costs? But it's true—SCE wanted to help us spend less money on electricity. It doesn't take long to see the results. When we learned how simple the steps could be, we acted, and we saw the benefits right away. We've added irons, coffee makers, refrigerators and hair dryers in our rooms, and our electricity costs are still lower than what we used to pay. Any hotel owner who assumes you have to spend more on energy to make your guests more comfortable is simply incorrect."

You can save money on electricity no matter how big or small your business. To learn more, visit us at www.sce.com/business, or call 800-990-7788.



Is Your Water Heater Safely Strapped In?

You and your household members face a serious threat of fire, explosion, or electrocution if your water heater overturns or suffers damage to electrical wiring or plumbing during a disaster, such as an earthquake.

For that reason, California law requires that all water heaters must be braced, anchored, or strapped to avoid falling during an emergency situation.

To safely secure your water heater and to comply with California's safety requirements, have a licensed professional install an approved restraint kit to your water heater. Kits are available at your local hardware or home improvement store.

Learn more about water heater safety at www.sce.com/waterheater.



Safe Portable Generator Hook-Up

Connecting a portable generator to your home's electrical wiring is dangerous and can cause serious injuries or electrocution.

Do not hook up a generator directly into an electrical panel. The safe way is to connect the electrical equipment to a portable generator using a properly sized extension cord.

If your needs require a generator to be wired directly to your home, California state law mandates that you notify SCE. We also recommend that you enlist the service of a qualified electrician to perform the task.

For more information please visit www.sce.com/generator.

Save Money and Enjoy a Greener Lawn

You'll spend less time on chores and more time enjoying fresher air and a greener lawn when you switch out your old gas-polluting mower for a clean-air electric one.



A zero-pollution electric mower not only lowers your exposure to emissions from gas powered equipment, it reduces smog-forming pollutants in the atmosphere. Getting rid of your old gas mower also eliminates those unsightly gas puddles and spills on your green grass, your tool shed or your garage.

And for a limited time, SCE and the South Coast Air Quality Management District have teamed up to help you save energy, money and the environment with the Lawn Mower Exchange Program. This spring, save big and pay just \$100 or \$160 for a brand new electric cordless mower valued at \$400 or \$500 when you exchange your gas mower.

This limited program is available only for residents in certain Southern California counties. Quantities are limited and are exchanged on a first-come first-served basis, upon prior registration.

Save the date: Registration begins Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 8 a.m. Find quick registration instructions and program details online at www.sce.com/lawnmower, or call 888-425-6247 once registration opens.