

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
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HAVE A FIRE SAFE SUMMER:

- ✓ *Keep grills and fire pits at least 10–25 feet away from homes and dry vegetation.*
- ✓ *Avoid using consumer fireworks at home.*
- ✓ *Install and test smoke alarms.*

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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FEATURE STORY

Understanding PSPS and Emergency Alerts: Who Explains What?

Staying informed is critical as wildfire seasons grow longer and more unpredictable. A Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a last-resort safety measure by major transmission owners that could affect you with little warning, though it's outside SMPA's direct control. SMPA is working to keep you informed if a PSPS is initiated upstream.



In emergencies, multiple alert systems activate:

IPAWS: FEMA's national alert hub, feeding critical data to local systems.

WEA: Emergency texts sent to your smartphone based on location (e.g., Amber Alerts), powered by IPAWS.

EAS: National system interrupting radio and TV broadcasts with emergency messages.

County Systems (Everbridge & Genasys) : Local emergency managers use these platforms to send targeted alerts via call, text, or email across our seven-county area.

SmartHub: SMPA's app for account updates, including outage notifications (planned or unplanned). **Sign up for alerts here.**

Social Media & Website: SMPA posts hourly updates on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and the website.

ACTION STEPS:

Register for SmartHub and your county's Everbridge/Genasys network. Remember, local emergency managers—not your utility—are the primary source for evacuation orders and disaster warnings.

Stay prepared and informed!

Enhanced Fire Mitigation Measures During Elevated Wildfire Risk

In response to elevated wildfire risk conditions across our service territory, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) will be implementing enhanced fire mitigation measures consistent with utility industry best practices and established safety protocols.

These precautionary actions are designed to reduce the risk of utility infrastructure contributing to wildfire ignition during periods of heightened fire danger. As a result, members may experience:

- more frequent power interruptions
- planned outages
- longer restoration times

The safety of our members, employees, communities, and first responders remains our highest priority. While we recognize that these measures may create temporary inconvenience, they are an important part of our commitment to protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructure during periods of elevated risk.



SMPA appreciates the patience, understanding, and cooperation of our members as we work together to enhance community safety and reduce wildfire risk throughout our region.

SMPA Sends Crew to “Light Up Navajo”

“Being on that reservation was like being in a different country,” says SMPA Journey Line Technician Roy Bolton. “But getting to meet those linemen and see how they do their trade—and the similarities to how we do ours—was a really cool experience.” Bolton, along with Journey Line Technicians Levi Thaute and Weston Rasmussen and Apprentice Lineman Tray Sickels, formed a volunteer San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) crew that helped build electrical infrastructure for the “Light Up Navajo” program in May.

Launched in 2019, “Light Up Navajo” is a large-scale mutual-aid initiative bringing electricity to thousands of Navajo Nation families who have never had power. The SMPA crew combined volunteer hours with time donated by the cooperative to travel to the reservation and construct the necessary infrastructure. “Each day, we were setting poles, pulling conductor and secondary, hanging a transformer, and energizing a home,” Bolton said.

Electricity allows families to safely use basic necessities for the first time, including medical devices, refrigeration, air conditioning, and indoor plumbing pumps.

The experience also benefits apprentice linemen like Tray Sickels. “He was in the bucket all day, every day, and got to do some energized work,” Bolton said. “It’s good for him to see different systems and work with different linemen.”

Overall, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Light Up Navajo program gave the SMPA crew an opportunity to broaden their perspective, experience another culture, and use their skills to help a region in need. Thanks to Roy, Levi, Weston, and Tray for exemplifying the cooperative way.



Demystifying Your Meter Data: What’s Happening at SMPA?

At San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), we want you to have the tools to manage your energy costs effectively. However, operating an electric grid across 3,600 square miles of rugged, mountainous terrain presents unique infrastructure realities.

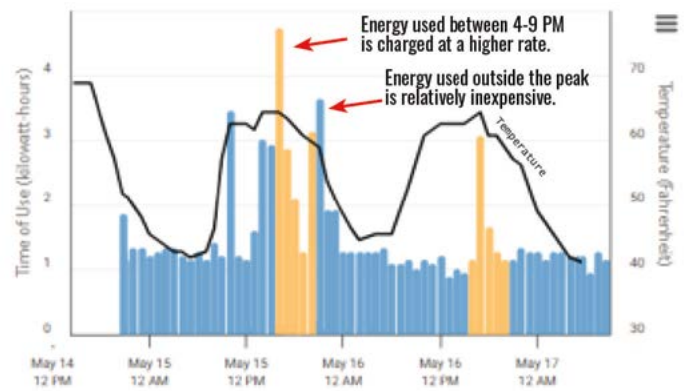
To pull data from roughly 15,000 meters spread across deep canyons and high mountain passes, we rely on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Our system records power consumption in hourly intervals, rather than every few minutes. These hourly packets are transmitted to us in batches, meaning your usage information is updated daily for the previous day’s consumption.

Upgrading our network to support near real time or even sub-hourly streaming of meter data would require an incredibly expensive overhaul of our communication and metering infrastructure. As a cooperative, we have to balance efforts like this with our focus to keeping your retail rates stable and cost-effective.

Still, you don’t have to wait for your monthly bill to monitor your energy use.

All members can access their hourly consumption data for free through our secure online portal, SmartHub.

By logging into SmartHub, you can view the previous day’s hourly data to connect your daily habits directly to real costs. You can see the precise impact of running your heat pump, charging an electric vehicle, or running major appliances. You can even see how much you use off-peak and on-peak. Reviewing this data is one of the most effective ways to understand your household energy patterns and take control of your budget.



Safety Training and Community Partnership

In addition to maintaining a strong internal safety culture, SMPA works proactively with local governments, public works departments, schools, businesses, and first responders to promote electrical safety awareness throughout our service territory. Through education, collaboration, and hands-on training, we strive to ensure that community partners are prepared to respond safely when electrical infrastructure is involved.

On June 9, SMPA hosted a collaborative training session with the Silverton Volunteer Fire Department and the Town of Silverton Public Works Department to review procedures and safety considerations related to utility infrastructure during emergency situations.

If your organization, business, public agency, or school is interested in receiving electrical safety training or learning more about best practices around power infrastructure, please contact us.

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SMPA
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THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE:
IM FINE I ENCHANTED GAITOR
Hint: Necessary Step

Last Month’s Answer: COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER
and be entered into a
drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



Know what’s below.
Call before you dig.