

ENERGY WISE

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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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

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SAFETY TIPS

October is Fire Prevention Month
Faulty wiring is one of the main causes of electrical fires. If you find anything that's frayed, tattered, or worn out, replace it with new wiring. Cords in poor condition can overheat or cause sparks and start a fire. For appliances, you can usually buy replacement cords.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Takin' Some ♥ to Texas

San Miguel Power and Grace Community Church Volunteers Provide Flood Relief for Dickinson, Texas Following Hurricane Harvey



The motley band of volunteers, informally known as the "Harvey Wallbangers" brought help and hope to residents of Dickinson, TX by stopping the spread of mold in homes flooded by Hurricane Harvey.

One hundred and seventeen hours after making landfall in southeast Texas, Hurricane Harvey broke all-time continental U.S. tropical rain records and became the longest Texas landfalling hurricane in history.

In the Houston suburb of Dickinson, TX, between 40" and 50" of rain fell. The subsiding water left thousands of homes and buildings saturated and uninhabitable. This news hit our own Key Accounts Manager, Paul Hora particularly hard, as Dickinson was his home town.

Since his parents' was one of the homes affected, Hora resolved to take time off to go help, but with his specialized knowledge of construction and mold mitigation, he sought to help others in surrounding neighborhoods as well. He received aid from his church, Grace Community of Montrose and from his employer, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA).

Upon hearing this, two members of his church, Jeff Hogan and Dirk Johnson, as well as his SMPA coworker, Communications Executive, Alex Shelley decided to join the mission.

Before long, the foursome had collected a truckload of tools, provisions & monetary

donations. This they brought to Dickinson, where they spent a week removing damaged belongings, flooring and drywall in order to prevent the rapid spread of mold.

Their efforts were multiplied as several of Hora's old friends, joined by new friends from a local women's hockey team tackled the mold problem together. By week's end, they had brought 12 homes from a dangerous state to a reparable state.

"Because of the outpouring of support from Texans and Coloradoans alike, our team made at least double the impact we had hoped to make," said Hora. "...but the biggest repair we made, was just letting folks know we were there for them."



Four volunteers from the western slope of Colorado embark on a 24-hr drive and week-long mission to help repair homes in southeast Texas.

POWER HOURS

Talk to us directly. Rates, Renewables, Reliability and more...

Learn. Discuss. Take Part.

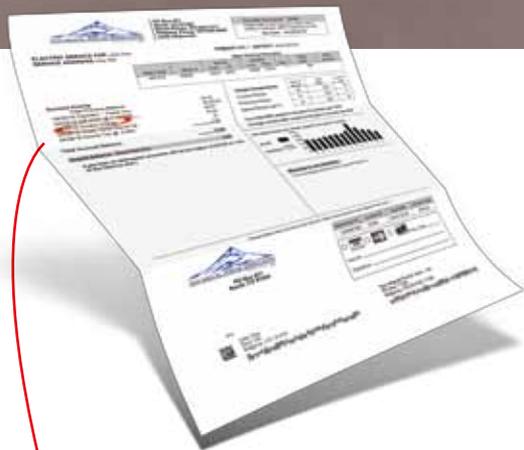
Ouray
Mon, Oct. 9, 5:30 PM
The Victorian Inn

Silverton
Tues, Oct. 10, 5:30 PM
The Eureka Station

Telluride/Mtn Village
Weds, Oct. 11, 6:30 PM
The New Sheridan

Nucla/Naturita
Thurs, Nov. 2, 5:30 PM
The Moose Lodge

Norwood
Mon, Nov. 13, 5:30 PM
Maggie's Pizza



Understanding Your Electric Bill

Access Charge / Energy Charge Explained

If you've ever looked at your power bill in bewilderment, trying to understand why you pay what you pay, you're not alone. We often get questions from members trying to understand the technical and financial information presented there.

What is the Access Charge?

One question that comes up frequently is "What is the access charge?" This is a flat fee that every member pays in order to have access to the power grid. (Poles, wires, & equipment) As members, we all share ownership of these assets, so we divide up the cost of maintaining those assets and charge everyone the same amount.

How can I reduce my bill?

That's one of our favorite questions. Members looking to reduce their power bill should look for ways to bring down their energy ("KWH") charge. There are many ways to do this:

1st, look at your energy consumption. Are there ways to live the same lifestyle without using as much energy? We offer several tools to help: Kill-a-Watt meters that measure the draw of individual appliances are available at your local library. You can also call us to schedule a walk-through inspection with one of our in-house efficiency experts.

2nd, use that information to make changes. You might decide to replace your old incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient LEDs. Or you might replace an inefficient appliance with an Energy Star rated one. In these cases, we offer help in the form of rebates. Check www.smpa.com → Efficiency to learn more.

3rd, plug into renewable energy. Many members reduce their bill by installing solar panels and using energy generated from them before pulling from the grid. In some cases, this can even spin the meter backwards allowing them to collect credits against future use of grid power. This is called net metering. It requires an up-front investment, but many feel it's a good risk.

Most importantly, call us if you want help reducing your bill. We offer these tools and more, and we love to share!

Account Activity	
Total Previous Balance	94.00
04/20/16 Payment -- Thank You	94.00 CR
04/28/16 436 KWH @ 0.137555	59.97
04/28/16 Access Charge	16.00
04/28/16 Green Cents Round Up	51
04/28/16 County Tax @ 2.00%	1.52
Total Account Balance	78.00
Unpaid Balance - Now Past Due	0.00

The access charge represents every members' financial responsibility to maintain the infrastructure that serves us all. Compared to neighboring electric cooperatives, SMPA's access charge is one of the lowest. This charge may increase soon, so it's a good time to think about managing your home energy use in order to offset this increase with energy savings. Call (970) 626-5549 to learn more.

A Stylish Sendoff

CFO Retirement Unites Friends



SMPA's Cal Rutherford concluded his career and 10-year stint as Chief Financial Officer surrounded by friends and co-workers at the Nucla Bowling Alley last month. All our best!



It's Leadership; Front & Center

Learn about the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. www.smpa.com →Community

