



Bombogenesis is not the name of a band...



SMPA Supports the Local Arts



May is Electrical Safety Month!

MAY 2019

ENERGYWISE



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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION



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

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

Springtime storms can bring down electric lines. If you see one:

- Stay at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it.
- Shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This minimizes the potential for strong electric shock.

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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.intakeusda.gov.

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When the "Bomb Cyclone" hit, SMPA was Ready Telluride/Mountain Village Reliability Project Lives Up to its Name

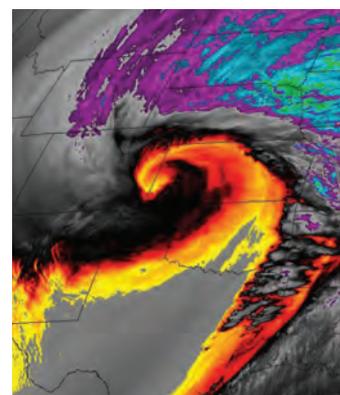
The word "bombogenesis" may sound like the title of a new hip hop album, but it's not. It's the term for a change in barometric pressure that, in mid-March, caused sudden and severe storm conditions on the western slope. Over a period of two days, the Telluride Ski Resort reported 32 inches of new snowfall. High winds and heavy precipitation caused schools and roads to close. Across the SMPA territory, the weather caused 29 separate power outages, which cut power for over 7000 members. Operations crews and dispatchers were pushed to the max.



This photo of an SMPA truck on the road above Camp Bird, near the Revenue Mine reveals how much snow came down in certain places during the recent storms.



The underground tie line in the Illium Valley (seen here under construction) gives SMPA engineers, operations crews and dispatchers another option to restore power when nature strikes.



Winter Storm Ulmer went through bombogenesis, the process of rapid intensification as defined by a greater-than-24-millibar drop in atmospheric pressure on the evening of March 12th and the morning of March 13th.

The event put to the test, one of SMPA's newest and most vital system improvements, the Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability Project. Fortunately for 4,562 Telluride and Mountain Village residents, the new system was up to the challenge.

The outage was caused by a tree that had blown into a transmission line in the Illium Valley. "The potential for something like this to happen, is the reason we conceived of the Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability Project in the first place," said SMPA Engineering Manager, Bill Riley. "The idea was to build a redundant line connecting two substations that could serve our largest population center, so that one substation could back up the other."...and that's exactly what happened.



It's not known exactly when nature will break our power distribution system. So, being prepared with redundant delivery methods is our best strategy for dealing with those unknowns... It's very cool to see it work. — BILL RILEY, SMPA ENGINEERING MANAGER

When crews assessed the situation at the site, it was determined that power could be restored through use of SMPA's new redundant underground power line. Within an hour, service was being restored to members throughout the area. "Not all similar outages will be able to be restored in the same timeframe," said SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski, "...but in this case, we deployed our contingency plan, and it went exactly as practiced."

Just as it was designed to do, the redundant feed allowed the underground tie line to serve as a backup for the existing transmission line, thereby preventing members from having to wait for repairs to the transmission system, which were not completed until the next day.

THROUGH THE LENS THE 2019 SMPA ANNUAL MEETING

Come to the Annual Meeting

- Music, Dinner, Gifts, Prizes
- Booths / Activities
- Board Election Results
- Meet Duane Highley of Tri-State G&T

June 6, 2019

Ridgway Office, 720 N. Railroad Street.

- Member Registration: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Business Meeting: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



SMPA Supporting the Arts in Our Community

San Miguel Power is proud to support many local community initiatives, including the arts. So, when the Friends of the Wright Opera House (FWOH) in Ouray requested a donation to continue their quality programming, we were only too happy to help. Best of all, every one of the 500 dollars we contributed was matched by our cooperative partner, Basin Electric.

We wanted to learn more about what's going on at the Wright, so we asked one of the FOWA founders, Dee Williams some questions. Here's what she had to say:

How long has the Wright Opera House (WOH) been a part of Ouray? What functions has it served in the past?

Ed Wright built the Wright Opera House in 1888 prodded by his wife Lettia to provide a space in Ouray for cultural and educational activities. At the time, Ouray was populated by brothels and saloons primarily. The Wright was a cultural center until Ed died unexpectedly, leaving Lettia with many unpaid debts. Lettia sold the Wright to her brother in law, who later sold it to the Masons, who then sold it to the Arps Brothers Hardware Store, etc etc...

Friends of the Wright Opera House purchased the building in 2011 and created a 501(c)3 corporation with the intention of renovating and restoring the Wright in order to create a venue for cultural, educational and community events...Just like Ed and Lettia.

What programs will the Wright be showing this year?

UpstART Theater and Ouray County Players will produce the melodrama, Radio Show, Shakespeare Festival, and three other cutting edge theater productions. Also, the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild provides high-quality performance art Productions.

The Wright is also a classroom for many different educational opportunities. In the past, Larry Meckel has offered Geology courses as well as a historical account of the expeditions that opened up this area. This May, he offers a course on the Evolution of Man.

The "Almost Every Wednesday" movie program brings a wide range of citizens into the Wright. We often partner with Ouray Library to show children's movies free of charge.



Ouray County Arts Association exhibits members' works at the Wright. This is an excellent opportunity for artists to publicly display their art.

What about the Wright Opera House gets you excited? Why do you do what you do?

I started working on acquiring the WOH in 2008. I loved the building and I loved the idea of it once again being a performance and cultural center. When we received the first Colorado State Historic Fund grant in 2011 and were able to raise the rest of the money in order to buy the Wright, I knew FWOH was on a very exciting journey. There are times when all of us get discouraged, but then we look at what we have accomplished because of community and foundation support and it makes us proud and excited.

Thank you to SMPA for your support along the way!

Touchstone Energy Balloon at Telluride Balloon Fest!

During the weekend of May 31st through June 2nd, dozens of hot air balloons launch from Telluride Town Park and sail down the valley, weather permitting. It's the spectacular Telluride Balloon Festival.

Our famous Touchstone Energy balloon will be participating and, as many know, Touchstone makes a charitable donation wherever the balloon flies. This year, Touchstone will donate to the Telluride Rotary Club. That's just another benefit of belonging to this nationwide alliance.



May is Electrical Safety Month

Did you know that May is Electrical Safety Month? In recognition of this, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has published a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning lightning storms that are frequent during the spring. Read on to ensure your own safety and that of your loved ones:



What should I do if I am caught outside during a lightning storm?

- Move to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest available object, so get down low in a crouched position if you are in an exposed area.
- Stay away from trees.

Am I safer in or out of my car? Do not leave your vehicle during a thunderstorm. A vehicle is considered safe during a thunderstorm if it is fully enclosed with a metal top such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. While inside a safe vehicle do not use electronic devices, such as radio communications.

The storm is still raging outside. Are we safe from lightning if we stay inside the house? Follow these indoor lightning safety tips to help keep your family safe inside while it's storming outside:

- To avoid lightning strikes, stay away from windows and doors and faucets.
- If possible, unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment and cords during storms.
- Avoid contact with water and plumbing, including sinks, baths.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: TO VOTE FAIR ON COIN PREP
Hint: Unlike customers of a for-profit utility, members of a _____ elect those who control the money.

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

**EnergyWise
 PO Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432**