

Playing it Safe with Electricity

With spring fast approaching, it's time to pack away the coats and mittens, wipe the mud off the porch, scoot the kids outside and, ahhh, relax.

Before unleashing your brood to enjoy the outdoor delights of spring, Pacific Power & Light Company would like to remind you to review basic electrical safety facts and rules with your children.

Basic Facts of Electricity

—Electricity is a powerful and potentially dangerous force that always must be treated with respect.

—Teach your children the principle of "grounding." Electrical currents, pulled by electro-magnetic forces, always seek the quickest route to the earth or ground. If your children are old enough to understand this natural law, they will have the basics for responding appropriately to electrical dangers.

You can demonstrate the grounding principle with water. Place a box or bowl in the sink. Let your child pour a glass of water over the box. Talk about how water, like electricity, takes the most direct route downward. Let your child add obstacle courses, build a water fall, and test again. Communicate to your child the importance of staying out of electricity's path.

Safety Reminders

Review these safety rules with your child.

—Fly kites in open areas only. Think before you "launch."

—Don't fly a kite on a wet day. A damp string is an excellent conductor of electricity. So is a wet child.

—Make sure kites and string do not contain metal (aluminum). Some types of cotton string have metal cores.

—Never try to remove a kite, or anything else, from a power line. If your child simply can't live without the kite caught in our lines, or it is invaluable, call us. We will gladly remove it.

—Don't climb trees near power lines. Trees are "grounded" and touching a power line while in one will cause electricity to flow through you.

—Don't touch a downed power line or any other downed wire. Instruct your child to report all downed lines to someone able to notify the power company or a local emergency services agency.

—When Pacific puts up a sign on a substation fence that says, "Danger - High Voltage," it means it. Advise your child that the fences and signs are there to protect them and they should not play on or near them.

—Don't drag a stick or baseball bat

across a metal fence. An unseen disconnected line could have energized it, making it dangerous.

Explaining to your child about power and potential harmful aspect of electricity is the first step in teaching electrical safety. Pacific Power recommends that electrical safety messages, because of their importance, should be reinforced. Suggestions for maintaining safety consciousness:

—Talk often about electricity. Get books from the library on electricity basics and safety. Suggest to your older children that they can "read more about it" in books about Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison and Michael Faraday.

—Pacific Power offers an informative video cassette on electrical safety to schools in its service territory. The video, called ZAP RAP, was recently

named "Best Training Video" in a national competition sponsored by JVC, a manufacturer of electronic equipment.

The cassette is designed as part of a health/science school curriculum. Supporting materials — posters, booklets, ZAPRAP buttons — are also provided.

—A safety board demonstration, which dramatically shows the arcing of electricity, can be scheduled by schools. A PP&L representative will present the program to students.

—Let's Talk Electricity coloring books, featuring Louie the Lightning Bug, are available to schools to use as part of a safety instruction class. Your children may recognize Louie from TV safety commercials Pacific sponsors during Saturday morning cartoons.

—"Kiteman" coloring sheets are available to customers. After your child has colored it, post it near the storage area for kits and other aerial toys. This will remind your child to "Play it Safe

with Electricity."

For more information, contact your local PP&L office: Rose City District, Rich Cannon, 256-6020; Portland District, Gail Matson, 238-2819.

Southern Alumni to Meet

in Portland

ASHLAND — All Southern Oregon State College alumni, parents and friends are invited to attend the "Third Thursday" alumni gathering in Portland. The informal get-together, sponsored by the Southern Oregon State College Portland Alumni Chapter, will be held at the Broadway Revue (SW Broadway at Jefferson), Thursday, April 17, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Campus representatives, including alumni director Mike St. Marie, will be in attendance.

Herero Danzers/Afrikan American Danze Theatre Present "The Last Dance/Don't Stop"

If you missed the Herero Danzers concert last year, you have an opportunity to see a refined version. "The Last Dance/Don't Stop" will be performed in two concerts on Sunday, April 20th, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. This Spring concert will be performed at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett.

The Herero Danzers/Afrikan American Danze Theatre is a not for profit organization in Portland since 1980. "The Last Dance/Don't Stop" is choreographed by Herero Danzers' artistic director Bobby Fother. Featured dancers include: Bobby Fother, Pattie Benson, Marlene Holiday, Paul Irvin, and Ronnie Soderberg.

In addition to the concert, Bobby Fother's "Private Line" of dance wear and fun wear fashions will be presented.

"The Last Dance/Don't Stop" is supported in part by the Metropolitan Arts Commission, Multigalactic Promotions and the Herero Danzers. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance at Stevens' & Sons, and Leonard in the Galleria. Tickets at the door are \$6.00. For information call 299-9111.



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Classrooms Move to Lloyd

Portland Public Schools classrooms move to Lloyd Center next Saturday and Sunday (April 19-20) to show what students are learning today.

"Classrooms on Parade" will have 40 displays of student work from 29 schools.

There also will be 20 performances and classroom demonstrations during the two-day exhibition.

Besides giving reading and storytelling demonstrations, school children will demonstrate their school-learned skills in tumbling, dancing and music.

Displays of student work will feature science, art, health videos, social studies, industrial arts and writing.

Teachers and students will be present to answer questions during mall hours.

"Classrooms on Parade" is organized by the Portland Assn. of Teachers (PAT) and sponsored jointly by Portland Public Schools and the Lloyd Center Merchants Assn.

For more information, please contact: Vicky Barrows, fair coordinator, 280-5676; Leonard Anderson, PAT president, 233-5018 or Bob Sherwin, communication specialist, Portland Public Schools, 249-3304.

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