



Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2012

ELECTRICAL STORMS KNOCK OUT EQUIPMENT, STAFF PREVAILS

Lightning Causes Wells, Electrical and Booster Station Interruptions; No Disruption in Water Service

Phelan/Piñon Hills residences were hit with several thunder storms in the past week; at times knocking out Wells and Booster Stations that pump water to Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District customers. General Manager, Don Bartz, stated "staff did an excellent job of handling the situation under extremely challenging circumstances." Staff worked around the clock to repair the boosters with no interruption in water service to the customers.

On Thursday, August 9, 2012 at approximately 2:00 PM a powerful thunder and lightning storm passed through Phelan/Piñon Hills area causing electric power surges and outages in the Sheep Creek Road and Highway 18 area. A couple of the Districts water wells lost power and a high electric surge caused the electronic monitoring/control system to short out. Staff manually adjusted the system and continues to monitor this site until a replacement unit can be installed.

On Saturday, August 11, 2012 at approximately 1:00 PM a powerful thunder and lightning storm passed through the Phelan/Piñon Hills area causing more power outages and electric surges. These power outages and surges caused the electrical panel box at one of the sites to meltdown disrupting the power at that site. District staff transported an emergency power generator to the site; running it for three days until repairs could be performed.

On Monday, August 13, 2012 at approximately 3:30 PM a powerful thunder and lightning storm passed through the Phelan/Piñon Hills area causing electric power surges and outages. Booster Pumps shorted out and failed. District staff worked throughout the night to make adjustments in the system and install temporary replacement motors until new electric motors can be purchased to replace the damaged equipment.

Ernesto Araiza, Interim Operations Manager, stated "District Staff promptly analyzed and determined a course of action to resolve the problems and keep the water distribution system in operation without any water disruptions to customers."

The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District commends the water operation staff on their outstanding attention to duty while working diligently throughout these storms to keep the water system operational.

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If you'd like more information, please contact Don Bartz at 760-868-1212.

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