

**Mayor's column for
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During the December 14 windstorm, I found several jobs that I would never want to have. I know from past experience that on nights like that I would never want to be a firefighter, a police officer, or a public works employee. It was just plain too cold and wet for me. And dangerous!

In the days following the storm, I gained a new respect for those charged with restoring the power to those of us who have come to expect electricity to flow like water at all times. I can only speak to my experience with PUD employees and contractors assembled from several different states, some of whom missed the holidays with their own families to bring warmth back to our homes. I know there was much frustration over being power-less, but PUD did an amazing job of restoring it.

I had the pleasure of working with a PUD employee who was able to give me as much information as I could digest about the where's and why's of power outages and how PUD responds to them. For the record, when you call with an outage report, your call goes on the board and is investigated as rapidly as they can by a two-man crew. If that crew can't fix the problem, it is immediately sent to the board for a full-crew response. And rightfully so, they place a priority on larger outages in order to restore power to the most people, most quickly.

People who suffer through the inconvenience of a power outage are only interested in one thing: when will the power come back on? And, of course, PUD is hesitant to make promises because they can't know what the crews in the field are faced with when they attempt to fix a problem. I know that the residents that I spoke to were hungry for information. Thanks to my informative contact at PUD, I was able to at least let folks know that the crews were indeed working on particular outages and I would continue to update them on progress.

My thanks goes out to all those crews who have to work in less-than-desirable conditions to keep us warm and comfortable. In the end, we in Edmonds were luckier than most. And we have many out-of state faces to thank for that. It was nice to have them visit Edmonds, but I really hope we don't have to see them again for a long time.