

Discussion Points:
What Can We do To Help Recover from the September 11th Tragedy?



What have we done as a utility?

First, we've taken another look at our own security. Energy plants, substations and fuel tanks can all be considered targets of terrorist threats so we followed procedures issued by the Dept. of Transportation and other regulations to be safe first. (see the attached press release)

This week, we've re-installed the flags on the downtown lamp-posts in support of our national government and as a show of unity with our country. The flags were not scheduled to be installed again until Memorial Day next year but with the enthusiastic approval of the Office of Economic and Community Development (who keeps the flags) we will keep them up as long as we can until the weather changes. We've already received calls from customers thanking us for this.

In a show of support, we've placed an ad in the Middleboro Gazette offering sympathy for the victims and their families, gratitude for the relief workers, resolve to support freedom and hope for solace and peace. We also joined with TMLP in a similar ad that appeared in the Enterprise, in a show of unity. We may join the members of the NEPPA in another joint ad showing even more strength in numbers and unity of public power.

What have we done like everyone else?

We've started collecting our own money for a donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief fund. We'll be delivering this donation to the Mayflower Bank which has opened an account for this effort.

What are we planning to do?

We're finding out more about donating blood for everyone's information. If a local effort is organized, we'll see if we need to allow employees time to give blood.

We've also met with other public power utility communicators to begin to plan for any consequences that may arise in the coming months. Things like promoting new ways to save energy and alternate payment plans in case of a slower economy.

We may be sending a gas crew down to New York to help inspect appliances and relight pilots in the undamaged areas of the city that were shut down during the disaster. This is only a possibility right now but it might be the most direct way for MG&E to help at this time. We'll let everyone know if this happens.

What else can we do?

We'll be finding that out as time goes on. Maybe we can do more to show support. Maybe we can join with other utilities to be more efficient or reach more people with important messages. If you have any ideas or hear of any good ideas, especially suggestions from our customers, please let Sandy Cataldo or Jim Smith know.

(more)

What can I do? How can I help?

Give blood, clothes or money. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are looking for donations of clothing for the relief workers and money in support of the victims' families. You can give directly to these organizations if you like or find one of the multitude of donation events that are springing up across the state. The Red Cross is also looking for blood and we'll be providing more information on where and when as we get it. You can also call them directly at 1-800-GIVE LIFE (800-448-3543)