

## KCP&L Prepares for Winter Weather in St. Joseph area

With areas north of the Kansas City metro area expected to receive up to 10 inches of snow, high winds and freezing temperatures, beginning the evening of Monday, Dec. 7, KCP&L has prepared in advance by placing additional crew members, contractors and tree crews on alert to help restore power quickly, and safely, if the need arises.

“The key to weathering major storms and potential power outages is advance preparation,” said Bill Herdegen, vice president, T&D Engineering and Operations. “That’s why we are working with materials suppliers and have crews on standby to be able to react quickly in the event of a power outage.”

KCP&L starts preparing for adverse winter weather conditions months in advance by conducting practice drills with employees and city agencies, and trimming tree branches year-round growing near power lines. If additional assistance is needed, KCP&L can also call on members of the Midwest Mutual Assistance Group, which help utilities in neighboring states during power outages.

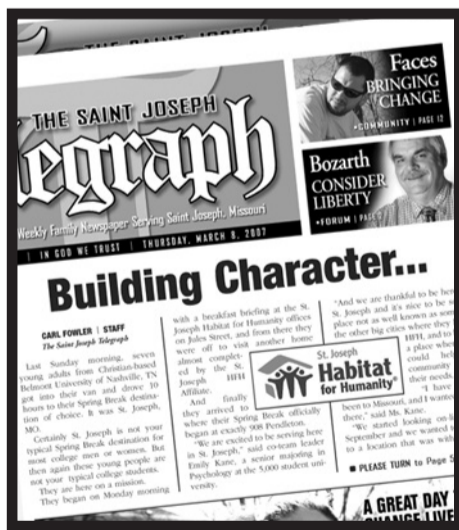
“We’ve recently adapted the best practices from our company’s storm response plan so we can mobilize quickly and effectively in any individual community or over our entire service, which is critical during storm restoration,” Herdegen added. KCP&L is a leader in the Midwest for storm response and recognized nationally for system reliability. In fact, for the third consecutive year, the company recently received PA Consulting Group’s 2009 National ReliabilityOne award in the Plains Region, which is given annually to the six utilities nationwide that have excelled in delivering reliable electric service to their customers.

Herdegen said keeping customers safe is paramount to KCP&L during an outage and provides the following tips:

- Never touch or attempt to pick up a fallen power line, and keep children and pets away. Assume any downed power line is energized. If you see a downed power line, call KCP&L immediately at 1-888-LIGHTKC (1-888-544-4852).
- To help speed the restoration process, call 1-888-LIGHTKC (1-888-544-4852) to report an outage. Your phone call is the best way for us to know you are without power and to determine the full extent of

the damage in your neighborhood.

- For the most up-to-date information about power outages and service restoration, view PowerWatch maps located on [www.kcpl.com](http://www.kcpl.com).
- Set up an emergency drawer or kit that is easy to access, even in the dark. Stock it with fresh batteries, a battery-powered radio and a flashlight. Avoid using candles, lanterns or oil lamps due to the fire risk.
- If a family member is on a life support system, plan for arrangements to get them to a location where their needs can be met. In addition, contact KCP&L at 888-471-5275 to make sure we’ve noted that a life support system exists at that service location.
- Unplug or protect sensitive computer and electronic equipment with a high-quality surge protector. For more information on KCP&L’s Meter-based Surge Protection program, go to [www.kcpl.com](http://www.kcpl.com) or call (816)472-0432.
- Do not open your refrigerator or freezer more than necessary. Undisturbed food will remain frozen in most freezers for up to 48 hours.
- Do not use charcoal grills to heat your home or to cook indoors. Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can build up and cause serious injury or death.
- If using a portable generator, follow the manufacturer’s safety and operating guidelines. Be sure to operate the generator in a well-ventilated area. Never operate it indoors or in your garage. Again, dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can build up and cause serious injury or death.



**CONTINUED from Page 1** assist snow plow operators clearing the routes quickly and more efficiently. In the event of a major storm, stay indoors. Plan ahead; make sure you have food and drink, and emergency supplies to last your family 72 hours. Make sure you have working batteries in your flashlight and keep several in accessible locations inside your home. Make sure your outside pets have shelter and plenty of water. In extremely cold weather, bring them

inside if at all possible. Please exercise extreme caution should you have to get outside and drive. Keep an emergency supply kit and a blanket in your vehicle. Drive slowly and keep plenty of distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Stay warm and stay safe this winter season.

## Sen. McCaskill delivers keynote address at U.S.S. Missouri Christening

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) delivered the keynote address at the U.S. Navy’s Submarine Christening Ceremony of the U.S.S. MISSOURI (SSN-780) in Groton, Connecticut Dec. 5th. McCaskill and Congressman Ike Skelton joined the Sponsor of the, Becky Gates, who is the wife of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, in smashing a bottle of champagne from Missouri’s own Stone Hill Winery in Hermann, Mo.


Prior to the ceremony, McCaskill proudly stood with five Missouri sailors assigned to the first crew of the Navy’s newest and most modern nuclear submarine before it was officially christened. LT Patrick Donovan of Springfield, ET1 John Tyhurst of Joplin, FT2 Ryan Thurston of Jefferson City, MM2 Nicholas Koblick of St. Louis, and STSSA Benjamin Bowers of Ionia will all serve on the U.S.S. MISSOURI.

The following are excerpts of the keynote address delivered by McCaskill, who was introduced by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

“We gather for this christening with the knowledge that MISSOURI’s service builds upon the proud lineage of her namesake. We gather in the belief that her service to our country – “silent” as it may be – will help keep Americans safe by deterring would-be aggressors. We also convene today to confidently set the tone for the character of this sub-

marine, which will sail with one foot in her proud past but with an eye towards the future and all the potential it holds.

“Now, I don’t need to tell you, Secretary Mabus, that bearing the name MISSOURI comes with a lot of responsibility. Missouri isn’t just any old name for just any submarine. I’ll grant you that as a landlocked state, Missouri doesn’t have much of a tradition of seafaring, although our rivers serve as important avenues for our nation’s waterborne commerce. But having a maritime tradition isn’t what this name is about. This name is about a spirit, a mindset. One that is quintessentially American. It is about the self-reliance, practicality, honesty, diligence and quiet patriotism that you find in the people of Missouri. It is about taking on the hardest tasks with joy and achieving tough goals together without fanfare or self-congratulation, just as Missourians have done for generations. And yes, being a Missourian is about doggedness, earthiness and just plain stubbornness not to back down in the face of a challenge. That dignity, that pride, that confident, bountiful spirit are what the name MISSOURI means to me. I am certain that this beautiful submarine will embody these qualities for all of her years. I am also certain that she will do the MISSOURI name justice – and that she will add her own twist to this new chapter in her history.

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