

# SACHEEN LAKE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

## **Electrical Outage - What You Need to Know**

Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District's sewer system is run by electricity. Each resident has a grinder pump hooked up to one's own electrical panel to vacate contents when the pump is full. The grinder pump then sends the contents into the pressurized system trunk lines for delivery to the central lagoons. **IMPORTANT TO KNOW:** System trunk lines are pressurized and have **backup power**.

## **Electrical Outage Impact on Grinder Pumps**

Electrical outages occur in the Sacheen Lake Community. When residents lose power, available well water is lost, which of course compromises the use of water in the house, such as toilets, sink, AND THE GRINDER PUMP. Depending on where the grinder pump is in its cycle will dictate how many times toilet, kitchen sink or any water can be added to the grinder pump contents. **MOST PROBABLY**, one should be able to add to the grinder pump roughly 50 gallons after an electrical outage. Flushing the toilet and any other major water draining into the system is something each resident must monitor carefully. **There is a limit to flushes/water draining before the grinder pump contents will begin to overflow at the top because of the lack of electricity, which will create a community health hazard.**

## **RESIDENTIAL BACKUP POWER -What about one's own backup system?**

Many residents, particularly those who live here all year long, have taken the step of installing emergency generators for possible longer outage periods, especially in the winter. The District supports residents doing this but cautions that it must be done to electrical code, and comes with a varying cost depending on the system and total watts configured. Nathan Johnson, the District's Operation Manager, is available to consult and advise on the multiple ways to establish one's own emergency electrical backup so that no harm will impact the District system's electronics or grinder pump. Residents are responsible for one's electrical requirements for **backup power**.

In the absence of power for a protracted time (days and weeks), Nathan, the District's Operation Manager, has the capability to pump out grinder pumps that begin to overflow their tank. This service is meant only for emergencies and should not be regularly expected or depended on during severe long-term outages.. In those instances, it is recommend one closely monitor water/toilet usage and consider leaving until the power comes back **if you do not have backup power** available.

This **overflow scenario** is also true if resident turns off power to the grinder pump at the panel and forgets to turn it back on. **WARNING:** the alarm will not sound because there is **NO POWER**.

The District Board's number one concern for residents is health and safety. Please contact Sheila Pearman or Nathan Johnson for any questions or clarifications on dealing with electrical outages.

Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District Board  
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Operation Manager - Nathan Johnson, 509.671.6019