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Energy saving tips during severe hot weather

Eastern Victoria's electricity distributor, SP AusNet, is encouraging residents to put energy saving measures in place to help prevent potential power outages.

SP AusNet spokesperson Natasha Whalley today's extreme temperatures have caused a dramatic increase in electricity use across the state as people turn up their air conditioners and other appliances during the hot weather period.

"There are many simple steps that residents can take to conserve energy in the home, all without compromising their comfort levels," she said.

"Many people don't realise that some appliances use stand-by power even after the 'off' button has been hit, so the simple act of turning appliances off at the powerpoint can make a huge difference when it comes to conserving energy on days of high electricity demand," Ms Whalley said.

Some energy saving tips for people to implement at home include:

- Keep blinds and curtains closed to block out heat;
- Try opening your doors and windows to cool the house at night, rather than running the air conditioner constantly;
- Seal any gaps in windows and doors to keep the heat out;
- Keep your air conditioner thermostat at 26 degrees, this will still cool your home but won't use as much electricity;
- Turn off any non-essential appliances such as air conditioners and televisions when you leave a room;
- Turn off appliances at the powerpoint to reduce the use of stand-by power;
- Keep air conditioner filters clean to allow them to operate more efficiently; and
- Turn on the fan instead of the air conditioner if you can.

While SP AusNet is not asking everyone to follow these energy saving tips, especially elderly people, those with young children or people who are ill, every contribution towards energy saving will help during periods of excessively high electricity demand.

"SP AusNet's network is designed to comfortably handle spikes in demand, but with the severe hot weather, we felt it prudent to ask customers to be mindful of their energy consumption," Ms Whalley said.

"Minimising electricity use by adopting these energy saving tips can help maintain reliable electricity supply across the network, help the environment and save customers money on their energy bill," she said.

SP AusNet encourages anyone experiencing a fault with their electricity supply to contact our faults line on 13 17 99.

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