



## How I Spent My Summer

By Makenna Dixon-Essien, age 15

I was supposed to be in Cabo this summer, relaxing on the white sand beaches with my friends and checking out the cute guys. Am I disappointed? Yes, who wouldn't be? But I have to keep in mind that Cabo isn't going anywhere and I got the opportunity to do something that my friends didn't. I got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to intern at Alameda Municipal



*Makenna dons an arc flash suit with Electrical Maintenance Technician Greg Davis*

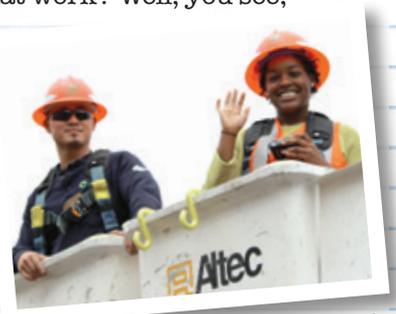


*Makenna learns how to talk with customers with Customer Service Representative Cindy Kern.*

Power (AMP) in a specific field that I am interested in. I can't just buy a plane ticket online to be a first responder to an outage, work in a substation, or attend a NCPA (Northern

California Power Agency) Utilities Directors' meeting. It doesn't work that way. But when I interned at AMP for the month of July, I got the chance to do something a plane ticket couldn't buy.

I ended up at AMP through an organization called Girls Inc. of the Island City. You might think to yourself, how does that work? Well, you see, Girls Inc. offers this nifty summer program for teens called "Eureka!" Eureka! is a national program that focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.). The three-year program immerses girls in hands-on STEM activities. During our final summer, we're assigned an internship at an organization or company working in those fields.



*Makenna prepares to go up in the bucket truck with Journey Lineworker Steve Nguyen*

I chose to intern at AMP because I am interested in becoming an engineer when I am older, and I believe there needs to be more female role models for young girls in this male-dominated field. To be honest, I didn't know what to expect when I started working at AMP. I only ever thought of power as that little on-and-off switch on the wall that

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## Keep Eight Feet Clear around Transformers

Transformers are necessary components of your electrical service. These transformers reduce high voltage



from AMP's main distribution lines to a usable level for your home and your neighbors' homes. From time to time, AMP's crews must gain access to these devices for maintenance or for restoring power.

That's why AMP wants to remind residents who have transformers on or near their property to keep vegetation a minimum of three feet away from the sides of the transformer and at least eight feet away from the access doors. Please do not build structures over or around the equipment or place lawn sprinklers near the transformer door.

Keeping plants and structures away from AMP transformers ensures your safety and the safety of AMP crews, who will be able to work more quickly and efficiently. 🌱

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provides me with light when necessary. I'm not going to lie: some things were over my head or just downright boring, but I did learn some pretty cool things about the process of electricity. Did you know that electricity is transferred to a transformer that steps down the voltage from 115kV to 12kV, and then the voltage is distributed to main feeds that step down the voltage again to 120/240 volts to power your house? I personally think that that is pretty awesome.

I have a little secret to tell: before my internship I was that smart girl who stuck a metal fork into the toaster—while it was plugged in—just to get out a piece of bread. Let's just say I will never do that again. Being electrocuted is not something I see in my future. I learned so much at AMP that I feel as if I am prepared to ace AP Physics. I wouldn't feel this way if it weren't for everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to pass down some of their knowledge to me. I strongly appreciate it. Crown Beach may not be that nice white sand beach in Cabo, but that's all right with me. I got an opportunity of a lifetime this summer at AMP. 🌱

## Public Utilities Board Elects Officers

The Public Utilities Board elected its officers for the 2014 fiscal year at its August meeting. Madeline Deaton was elected to her first term as the Board's president and Mary Sutter was elected to her first term as vice president. The Board elected Girish Balachandran, AMP's general manager, as its secretary.

Also serving on the Board are Commissioners Greg Hamm and Ann McCormick along with Alameda's City Manager, John Russo, as an ex officio commissioner.

Meetings of the Board are held regularly on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda. The meetings are always open to the public. To learn more about the Board and its commissioners, visit AMP's website. 🌱

## Pride in Public Power

Every year, AMP participates in a week-long national celebration of public power's hometown advantages. This year, we're celebrating Public Power Week from October 6-12, along with more than 2,000 other electric utilities that provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 47 million Americans. As Alameda's 127-year old, community-owned electric utility, we hope you'll join us in celebrating the benefits of public power in October and every day. 🌱



The FLASH is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box 11, Alameda, CA 94501-0263 or by email to [irwin@alamedamp.com](mailto:irwin@alamedamp.com)

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 Girish Balachandran, General Manager

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