

Y2K is here tonight

By JASON BOTCHFORD
Toronto Sun

When Ontario Hydro flicks a switch at midnight tonight which could cut off power in central and west-end Toronto for about 180,000 customers, remember one thing: This is a test, only a test.

Warping its clocks forward to Jan. 1, 2000, Hydro is going to see whether its high-voltage system is ready to handle the Y2K bug.

Confident

But according to Hydro, there's no need to panic. Utility officials are downplaying the "controlled test," confident it will go off without a hitch. "It's a very remote chance that anything will go wrong ... and any disruption of service is highly unlikely," Hydro spokesman Al Manchee said.

But in case anything goes awry, ambulances, hospitals and police will be on Y2K-alert.

Back-up generators have been tested, extra personnel are being called in, and members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service will rove the streets reporting problems to police.

The TTC will power down at 11:55 p.m. for 10 minutes to avoid any unplanned shutdowns.

The test area is bounded by Etobicoke Creek in the west, Spadina Ave. to the east, Lake Ontario to the south (including the Toronto Islands) and Hwy. 401 to the north.

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Computers turned to Jan.1, 2000

Hydro set to test Y2K compliance

By JACKIE BURNS
Toronto Sun

Ontario Hydro was planning to go head to head with the millennium bug last night.

In a test to determine whether its high-voltage system was equipped to deal with the Y2K bug, Hydro planned to move its clocks forward at midnight to Jan. 1, 2000.

Ambulance, hospitals and police were put on Y2K alert and as a precaution, back-up generators had been tested.

Extra personnel were called in and members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service were to patrol the streets to report any problems to police.

The TTC warned power on the system would be shut down for 10 minutes just before midnight to avoid any unplanned delays.

Hydro had said there was no need for people to panic in the test area which was bounded by Etobicoke Creek in the west, Spadina Ave. to the east, Lake Ontario to the south (including the Toronto Islands) and Hwy. 401 to the north.

Utility officials had downplayed the "controlled test," confident there would be no major problems.

"It's a very remote chance that anything will go wrong ... and any disruption of service is unlikely," Hydro spokesman Al Manchee had said before the test.

Hydro had said that should a power outage occur, it would likely only last for about 15 minutes. They had advised motorists who encountered a power outage at a traffic signal to treat the intersection as a 4-way stop.

They cautioned drivers that lights on highways in the test area might also be affected.