

DigiNews

The Quartley Newsletter for PMT Customers

2008 Winter

2009 Digital TV Transition

What You Need to Know

On February 17, 2009, federal law requires that all full-power television broadcast stations stop broadcasting in analog format and broadcast only in digital format; known as the Digital Television Transition (DTV). Here's what these requirements will mean for you and your television viewing.

How do I know whether I need a converter?

If you use "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna for TV reception, you probably need a converter. Television sets connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV services do not require converters. Televisions with digital tuners already built in also do not need converters.

What are my Options?

- Keep your TV and buy a converter. Coupons are available to reduce the price of certain converters by \$40. Each household is eligible for two coupons. For more information or to request coupons call toll-free 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or visit www.dtv2009.gov.
- Buy a TV with a built in digital tuner.
- Hook up your television to PMT Cable. As long as all the TVs in your house are connected to cable or other pay for TV service, they'll be capable of displaying broadcast stations.
- Buy a converter with enhanced features, such as one with a DVD Recorder. Converters with enhanced features are not eligible for the Coupon Program.

If I want a new TV, will I have to buy a High Definition TV (HDTV) to watch digital broadcast television after the transition?

No. The DTV transition is a transition from analog broadcasting to digital broadcasting. It is **NOT** a transition from analog broadcasting to High Definition broadcasting. Digital broadcasting allows for High Definition broadcasts, but High Definition is not required, and you do not need to buy a HDTV to watch digital TV.

A Standard Definition DTV (which is simply a TV with an internal digital tuner), or a digital-to-analog converter box hooked to an analog TV, is all that is required to continue watching over-the-air broadcast television. Digital broadcast television includes Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) formats. You can watch High Definition



programming on a Standard Definition DTV (or on an analog TV hooked to a digital-to-analog converter box), but it won't be in full High Definition quality. It is also important to know that Standard Definition DTVs are comparably priced to similar sized analog TVs.

Will I still need an antenna to receive programming?

Yes. If you currently use an antenna to receive your over-the-air programming, you will still need it after you install a converter box. However, after February 17, 2009 some television stations will be moving to a different channel in a different frequency band that may require a different antenna type from the one you may now have. For example, some channels in the "VHF band" (Channels 2-13) may be moving to the "UHF band" (Channels 14-51) and vice versa. Receiving VHF and UHF signals require different antenna types, although some antennas are designed to receive both VHF and UHF signals. In some cases, TV viewers may need a new antenna. For help choosing an antenna in order to receive your free, local broadcast TV channels, visit www.antennaweb.org.



Common Terms Associated with the Digital Transition:

Analog Spectrum

A traditional, less-efficient and lower quality system that uses radio frequency (RF) waves to transmit and display pictures and sound.

Broadcast Spectrum

The entire range of frequencies used for radio and television transmission.

Digital

Describes a new, more efficient method of storing, processing and transmitting information through the use of computer code.

Digital Television(DTV)

The umbrella term used for the new broadcasting system that uses computer code to transmit pictures and sounds. DTV includes all types of digital broadcasting, including High and Standard Definition television, datacasting and multicasting.

Converter Box- Digital-to-Analog

A stand-alone device that receives and converts digital signals into a format for display on an analog television receiver.

High-Definition Television (HDTV)

One type of digital television signal that is broadcast at a higher resolution than the others, providing a higher-quality picture.

For more information and additional frequently asked questions please logon to www.dtv.gov.



Rupert
507 G. Street
436-7151

Burley
1458 Overland Ave.
878-7151

Twin Falls
308 Shoshone St. E
933-7151

Bylaw Amendments Change Annual Meeting Process

Recent Bylaw amendments changed PMT's Annual Meeting date and the balloting process. The meeting date was changed to the fourth Tuesday of March to encourage increased member attendance and to allow additional time for the auditors to prepare the reports which reflect the cooperative's financial condition. Other changes enable voting for the director position(s) at polling places and times set by the Board, and the option of casting an absentee ballot.

Annual Meeting of Members

The Best Western Burley Inn Convention Center is the location for PMT's 2008 Annual Meeting on March 25th, at 7:30 p.m. Member registration for the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes financial and operation reports, balloting, introductions and announcements.



A nominating committee is finalizing a list of candidates to run for one three-year director position. Voting will take place on March 25th, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at each of the three local PMT Businesses Offices. The Rupert office is at 507 G Street, the Burley office is at 1458 Overland Avenue and the Twin Falls office is located at 308 Shoshone Street East. Members may also make a written request for an absentee ballot which must be completed and returned prior to the call for ballots at the annual meeting. As in the past, 7:00 p.m. voting registration will precede the 7:30 business meeting. Ballots will be called for during the meeting.

Plan to attend the PMT Annual Meeting, find out what is happening with your company and take a part in governing its growth and development. If you have questions about the meeting or the voting process please call or stop by one of the

ICE-Are you Prepared?

Living in the Magic Valley, we know all about ice. It's on our windshields, sidewalks and the roads every winter. In spite of that knowledge, many of us are unaware of another very important ICE.

In today's society, most people carry a cellular telephone. Many emergency response groups are using the information found in your cell phone to help contact friends or family members in the event you are involved in an emergency situation, such as a car accident. Most people have a long list of names and numbers in their contact lists. To assist emergency personnel in knowing which numbers to use to contact someone quickly, they have developed ICE, In Case of Emergency.

At least two different contacts listed under ICE 1, ICE 2, etc., are recommended. Choose names and numbers of people who know how to contact other family members and know important medical information about you, such as allergies, diabetes, heart conditions, etc. Be sure to list numbers that will most likely be answered any time of the day or night, and let whoever you choose know that you are including them on your emergency contact list. You will also want to review the list periodically to make sure that none of the numbers have become outdated.



Don't let an emergency become more of an emergency--by helping those who help us. Be careful out there, but just In Case of an Emergency, be prepared, too.

Syringa Wireless One Year Service Anniversary



A year ago, Syringa Wireless set out to provide the people in Southern Idaho with a better option for cellular service by providing the best customer service, great coverage, and new, easy to use technology - they're off to a great start. Syringa Wireless has 14 retail locations, they have doubled the size of their network, and they have activated over 6,000 new customer phones including over 250 lines for southern Idaho businesses. As an Idaho-owned and operated cellular phone company, Syringa Wireless takes great pride in serving Idahoans, just as their owner-companies (Albion Telephone Company, Direct Communications, Filer Mutual Telephone, Project Mutual Telephone and Silver Star Communications) have been collectively doing for the past 92 years. This local focus is a unique advantage over the competition.

Coming in 2008:

- New plans
- New extended calling area
- New computer and mobile phone integration
- New location based services
- New Local Information Services Assistant
- New Push to Talk Service

Syringa Wireless' General Manager Mike Hunsaker, says "Thanks for your support. We look forward to providing you with exceptional service in 2008!"

For more information about Syringa Wireless services and what's coming in 2008 please stop by any of PMT's three convenient locations.



Ring me!

PMT Foundation



In late 2006 PMT's board of directors authorized the creation of a charitable foundation called PMT Foundation, Inc. for the purposes of supporting worthy community projects and educational scholarships. Since then, the Foundation has awarded three \$2000 scholarships to deserving local graduates. The initial funding for the Foundation was provided by an accumulation of unclaimed patronage refunds which PMT transferred



to the Foundation at the end of 2006. The interest on these funds has provided money for scholarships that, in the past, PMT awarded to local high school graduates. With the creation of the Foundation, this permanent endowment may be used for other purposes as are deemed appropriate by the Foundation's board. The Foundation provides a vehicle to receive tax deductible contributions for community oriented purposes. At the January meeting the Foundation's board discussed ways other than scholarships where the funds can be used and will release more information as final decisions are made. Applications for the 2008 scholarships are available this spring through school counselors, at all PMT offices and at www.pmt.org.

Email Troubleshooting & Other Steps for Solving Problems

In this article, we will discuss how to solve common email and spam (junk) email related problems. This article will also discuss some helpful steps to try prior to calling PMT for tech support, in order to help us better assist you.

If you encounter email problems:

- Verify that you can access web pages. If you are able to view web sites, this means that your Internet connection is working properly and isolates the problem to your email program.
- In the event that you receive an error stating "Connection to the server has timed out," please check to see if you have an antivirus program on your computer. Many antivirus and security programs have a built in function to scan all email coming in and going out, which can cause issues such as not being able to send or receive email and can be fixed by disabling email scanning in the antivirus or security program. We recommend you consult your antivirus program's instructions or help section for how to turn this feature off, or call an Internet Technician.
- Error messages such as "Could not send email, specified sender is invalid" mean that the address you are trying to reach is either formatted improperly or does not exist. Please verify that the email address is formatted properly, for example "emailaddress@emailexample.com" – the "@" sign must be included in the proper location within the address.
- In the event that your email program does not open, please close any open programs and restart your computer by going to the start menu, shut down, and then choose restart. Wait for the computer to fully reload, and then try again to access your email program.

If you encounter difficulties using the Can-It Spam Filter:

- When trying to login to the Can-It Spam Filter, be sure to enter your full email address. The password to use is your normal email password.
- To reject an email, find the box to the right side of each email listed in the spam filter labeled "Do Nothing," click

on the box, and change it to "reject message." Then click on the "Submit Changes" button to reject the email as spam.

- To change the spam filter settings to always allow a specific sender's email to bypass the spam filter, select "Whitelist Sender" on the email that is caught in the filter and click submit changes. Another way to do this is to find the box next to "Always accept mail from," enter the email address of the person you want to always allow to email you and click add. This process is known as whitelisting, and can be very helpful in receiving email from friends and family members.
- Definitions: Sender – A specific email address of one individual. Domain – the part of an email address after the "@" sign (note that blacklisting a domain will block all email addresses from that domain from sending to your address).



Helpful Suggestions to Try:

- Please try closing any open programs and restarting your computer before calling PMT's tech support. This can solve many issues related to the Internet. This can be done by going to your computer's start menu, click "Shut Down" and choosing restart. Wait for your machine to fully restart and fully load before attempting to run any programs; interrupting this process can cause issues. Computers often indicate they are still working by displaying an hourglass cursor on the screen.
- Please remember to never hit the reset button on the modem; this will remove all settings that make the modem function properly and necessitate a technician to make a trip. This is generally a billable call if such an incident occurs.

Please feel free to call a member of our friendly team of Internet Technicians if you need further assistance. PMT technical support hours are from 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and 10:00 AM through 2:00 PM on Saturday. Rupert 436-7151 • Burley 878-7151 • Twin Falls 933-7151

