

Merrimac Municipal Light Department



Meter Tampering Policy

At the August 8th, 2017 Municipal Light Board Meeting, the Municipal Board of Light Commissioners ("Board") voted to adopt this Meter Tampering policy. This policy describes how the Municipal Light Department (MLD) will be addressing situations where the revenue meter and/or meter socket has been tampered with.

Meter tampering shall be defined as tampering with or bypassing the MLD's meter or equipment, or other instances of electric service diversion such as physically disorienting the meter, attaching objects to the meter to divert or bypass electric service or, insertion of objects into the meter, and other electrical and mechanical means of tampering with, bypassing, or diverting electric service.

Meter tampering is illegal, dangerous and is strictly prohibited by the MLD. All known occurrences of meter tampering will be subject to a \$200 fee assigned to the account associated with the meter location. Additionally, the service can be subject to immediate disconnection with or without prior notification. The MLD will notify law enforcement of all instances of meter tampering.

Adjusted Bills Due to Meter Tampering

In the event of meter tampering, any of the following may be used to calculate bills and assess charges for the billing periods in which the meter tampering occurred.

1. Bills may be calculated based upon energy consumed by that customer at that location under similar conditions during periods preceding the initiation of meter tampering. Such estimated bills shall be based on at least 24 consecutive months of comparable usage history of that customer when available, or less history if the customer has not been served at that location for 24 months.
2. Bills may be calculated based upon that customer's usage at that location after the meter tampering has been corrected.
3. Bills may be calculated where the amount of unmetered consumption can be calculated by industry recognized testing procedures.
4. The MLD may use other methods of calculating bills for unmetered electricity when the usage of other methods is more appropriate.
5. The MLD will charge for all labor, material and equipment necessary to repair or replace all equipment damaged due to meter tampering. An itemized bill of such charges will be provided to the customer.
6. The MLD will charge a \$200 Meter Tampering Fee, as indicated above, for costs related to discovery, assessment, documentation, bill calculation, and restoration of service associated with the incident.