The primary mission of the Plant Operations group is to serve the needs of faculty, students, and staff by maintaining and improving the physical environment and facilities of the University of Houston. Being an educational institution we also believe in sharing the knowledge of our operations with our students and staff.

Plant Operations is pleased to announce three tours of several Utility Services areas. These tours will be offered on the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30AM and will be lead by a Plant Operations' staff member. Every month we will alternate between one of the following tours: (1) Central Plant, (2) Underground tunnels, (3) Cougar Sub-station.

REGISTER FOR A TOUR

The next tour of the Central Plant is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 @ 10:30am.

Please contact Sameer Kapileshwari (SAKapileshwari@central.uh.edu) or Jeff Brown (JBrown3@central.uh.edu) in Plant Operations to sign up for these tours, or to obtain additional information. The length of the tours will be roughly 25 to 30 minutes. For your safety and security, sandals, open-toed shoes, and/or cameras aren’t allowed.

TOUR-1: CENTRAL PLANT

Have you ever wondered?

1. What happens inside the Power Plant building located between M.D. Anderson library and the School of Engineering?
2. How our campus gets its cooling and heating?
3. How much installed capacity we have and, as we continue our journey to achieve Tier-1 status, if we have enough capacity to serve all the planned new buildings that will come online?

Come and join us for the next Plant Operations tour of the Central Plant. During this tour you will see the Central plant controls room, cooling equipment, chemical treatment room, electrical gear, and the crowd favorite - looking inside the operational steam boiler.
TOUR-2: UNDERGROUND TUNNELS AND HIGH VOLTAGE VAULT

There are about 3 miles of underground tunnels at University of Houston. Chilled water, steam, electrical feeders run through these tunnels.

Take a short walk with us to see a portion of these underground tunnels from Science and Research Building 2 (SR2) to University Center-Satellite. During this tour you will see the utilities underground, sub-marine doors installed in tunnels, and the high voltage electrical vault with automatic transfer switches.

TOUR-3: COUGAR SUBSTATION

The reliability of our electrical service is significantly better than the conventional CenterPoint grid. We all experienced this during Hurricane Ike in 2008. As most residents in and around Houston area suffered with extended power outages, University of Houston services (electrical, water, cooling) were not interrupted.

One of the reasons for such high reliability is due to University owned Cougar sub-station. Cougar sub-station is located at the Energy Research Park behind building-14. This tour will focus on the electrical gear at the substation and the three electrical feeders coming to campus.

This outdoor tour will depend on weather conditions. If it is raining or if there are chances of rain, the tour may get cancelled.

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