

POWERING THROUGH FIRE SEASON: UNDERSTANDING THE PUD'S FIRE-SAFE MODE

When fire season hits, the landscape changes, and so does the way your PUD operates. With extreme heat, dry vegetation, and gusty winds, one spark from electrical equipment could mean disaster. That's why our line crews, engineers, and dispatchers shift into a higher gear, working long hours in sweltering conditions to prioritize one thing above all: safety.

In Fire-Safe Mode and especially Elevated Fire-Safe Mode, our system becomes far more sensitive to any disturbance. Even a tree limb brushing a power line can trigger an automatic shutoff. And unlike normal conditions, we can't just flip a switch to turn the lights back on. Our crews must inspect every foot of the line, sometimes by truck, by UTV and even on foot, before it can be safely re-energized. This means the potential for extended outages rises significantly.

It's important for everyone to understand that these settings are not the same as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). A PSPS is a planned, preemptive shutoff used by some utilities during extreme fire weather, where power is turned off in advance of a threat. Our PUD does not use PSPS. Instead, Fire-

Safe Mode allows the system to keep running, but with extra layers of safety that may lead to longer and more frequent outages during wildfire season.

Our crews are prepared for fire season. Here's how you can be prepared at home.

BEFORE THE OUTAGE

1. Take inventory of items that need electricity, such as medical devices, mobility aids, refrigerated medicine, etc.
2. Stock up on flashlights, batteries, water, and non-perishable food.
3. Have backup power like portable chargers or power banks for phones and small devices.
4. Know your medical needs. Talk with your doctor about what to do during an outage. Ask how long medicine can stay at room temperature.
5. Have a communication plan with family, neighbors, or caregivers.

DURING THE OUTAGE

1. Keep freezers and

refrigerators closed. A full freezer stays cold about 48 hours; a fridge about 4 hours.

2. Unplug electronics and appliances to avoid damage from power surges when service returns.
3. Use flashlights instead of candles to reduce fire risk.

IF YOU USE A GENERATOR

1. Always operate outdoors, 20+ feet from doors and windows.
2. Never use a generator indoors as carbon monoxide can be deadly.
3. Install CO detectors with battery backup.
4. Avoid backfeed: Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. This can send electricity back into the grid, endangering lineworkers and neighbors.
5. Follow all manufacturer instructions.

Thanks for your patience as we work to keep our community safe during fire season. Please call us or visit our website for more information about our wildfire mitigation efforts.

CONNECT



STAY COOL AND SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

With hot temperatures here, there are easy ways to stay comfortable without sending your electric bill soaring.

- **Set your thermostat wisely.** Raise it a few degrees and use fans to stay cool. Use a programmable thermostat to adjust settings while you're away.
- **Take advantage of cool mornings and evenings.** Open windows for fresh air, and close blinds during the day to block out heat.
- **Use appliances smartly.** Run ovens, dryers, and dishwashers during cooler hours to reduce indoor heat.
- **Maintain your cooling system.** Clean filters and clear debris around outdoor units. Schedule an annual check-up for central or ductless systems.
- **Seal leaks.** Use weatherstripping or caulk to keep cool air in and hot air out.
- **Look for energy-efficient appliances.** ENERGY STAR-rated devices use less power and perform better.
- **Add shade.** Plant trees or install awnings to block direct sunlight and keep your home naturally cooler.

Every small change helps. With a few adjustments, you can stay cool, save energy, and keep your bills in check all summer long.

Come See Us at the Pend Oreille County Fair!

We'll be at the Pend Oreille County Fair August 14–17 at the fairgrounds in Cusick and we'd love to see you there! Stop by the PUD booth to chat with staff, ask questions, snap a photo in our photo booth, and grab some free PUD swag. There's something for everyone, so swing by, say hi, and have some fair fun with your PUD!



Follow us on Facebook for all the details.

STILL TIME TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ENERGY SAVINGS KIT!

Free Energy Savings Kits are still available for PUD customers!

Each kit includes energy-saving tools like a smart thermostat, thermostatically controlled outlets, and other simple upgrades to help you lower your energy use and utility bills. It's part of our ongoing effort to make energy efficiency easy and affordable.

Supplies are limited, so don't wait.

Visit our website or contact us today to request your free kit!

CONNECT WITH US!

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, Aug 5th
Newport

Tue, Aug 19th
Newport

Mon, Sept 1st
Labor Day
Office Closed