



Prepare Now for Wildfire Season

As wildfire season approaches, your PUD urges customers to take steps to protect their homes, families, and communities. Preparing in advance can help reduce risks and improve safety.

Defensible Space:

- Clear dry leaves, grass, and debris from roofs, gutters, and around your home.
- Keep at least 30 feet of defensible space by trimming trees and removing flammable vegetation.
- Store firewood, propane tanks, and other combustibles away from structures.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Create an emergency plan and discuss evacuation routes with your family.
- Assemble an emergency kit with essentials like water, food, medications, and important documents.
- Sign up for local emergency alerts, such as Pend Oreille County's Nixle system, to stay informed about wildfire risks and evacuation orders. You can find the link to Nixle here: <https://www.pendoreille.gov/emergency-management/page/nixle>

Electrical Safety:

- Never attempt to clear vegetation near power lines - report hazards to the PUD.
 - Use generators safely by keeping them outdoors, away from windows and vents, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Always use a transfer switch or have a qualified electrician install your generator to prevent dangerous backfeed, which can put utility workers and neighbors at risk.

Taking these precautions now can help protect your home and community. For more wildfire safety tips and information, visit: <https://popud.org/outage/wildland-fires-and-our-system>

PUD Expands Low-Income Assistance Programs

Pend Oreille PUD has updated its assistance programs to better support customers with household incomes at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI) or 200% of the federal poverty level. The Board recently approved several changes, including:

- **Increased Senior Discount:** The monthly discount for qualifying seniors will double from \$5 to \$10.
- **New Veteran Discount:** Honorably discharged veterans who meet income requirements will now be eligible for a monthly discount.
- **Expanded Neighbors-in-Need Program:** Customers no longer need to be at risk of disconnection to receive assistance. The PUD can now proactively award eligible customers a \$250 grant toward their electric bill. The Board also approved a \$12,500 contribution to the program this year.

For more information or to apply, visit our website or call us at 509-447-3137.

CONNECT

Stay Safe During National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, a time to raise awareness about potential electrical hazards and how to prevent them. Pend Oreille PUD encourages customers to take simple steps to stay safe around electricity both indoors and outdoors.

Indoors:

- Never overload outlets or use damaged extension cords.
- Replace frayed or damaged cords immediately.
- Keep electrical panels accessible and never block them with furniture.
- Unplug appliances when not in use to reduce fire risks.

Outdoors:

- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines when using ladders or trimming trees.
- Keep electrical equipment dry and use only weather-rated cords for outdoor use.
- Call 811 before digging to avoid hitting underground utility lines.
- Never touch a downed power line—always assume it's live and report it immediately.

By following these safety tips, you can help prevent electrical shocks, fires, and outages. Visit: <https://popud.org/outage/safety-and-education> for more safety resources and tips.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

Since spring has sprung, we are on our way to warmer weather and the first of this year's weed seeds are on the move. To help prevent the spread of noxious weeds throughout the year, avoid traveling through weed-infested areas with ATVs and other off-road vehicles. To avoid bringing weed seeds into new areas, it is important to be cautious when taking vehicles off-road as seeds easily get caught in the frames and tires of vehicles and can blow away or fall out in a new location. It is advised to thoroughly wash your vehicle after being off-road.

If you would like more information on noxious weed prevention, treatment and resources that are available in our area, you can visit the Weed Board website at <https://www.pendoreilleco.org/weed-board>



NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

May 31st is National Dam Safety Awareness Day which was created to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety. It is critically important to not only understand the scope of the danger dams can present, but also be aware of the many ways you can keep yourself safe and avoid a tragedy. There are a huge number of things that can go wrong near dams, so it is always best to avoid them and stay a safe distance away both upstream and downstream.

Remember - *keep your distance, keep your life.*

If you choose to go out on a waterway for recreational purposes, make sure you follow these tips:

1. Know the area and be aware of hazards.
2. Read and obey all posted signs and barriers.
3. Wear a personal floatation device
4. Carry a *safety whistle*.
5. Tell someone your plans before you head out.
6. If you see someone in trouble, call 911.

In recognition of National Dam Safety Awareness Day, we will have *safety whistles* available to customers at the Newport Administration Building as well as the Box Canyon Visitor's Center *during the month of May* (while supplies last). For more information, please visit: <https://popud.org/news-and-alerts/community-and-resources>



CONNECT WITH US!

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North County: 509.446.3137
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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, May 6th
Newport

Tue, May 20th
Newport

Mon, May 26th Memorial
Day - Office Closed