

# CONNECT

MAY 2026



## Don't Wait, Prepare Now for Wildfire Season

Wildfire season is approaching quickly, and preparation now can make all the difference later. Pend Oreille PUD is urging customers to take early, proactive steps to protect their homes, families, and communities before conditions become more dangerous.

Start by creating defensible space around your home. Clear dry leaves, pine needles, and debris from roofs and gutters, and maintain at least 30 feet of cleared space by trimming trees and removing flammable vegetation. Move firewood, propane tanks, and other combustible materials away from structures.

It's also important to have an emergency plan in place before you need it. Know your evacuation routes, talk through them with your family, and prepare an emergency kit with water, food, medications, and important documents. Stay informed by signing up for local alerts, including Pend Oreille County's Nixle system.

Finally, keep electrical safety in mind. Never attempt to clear vegetation near power lines, and report concerns to the PUD.

If you use a generator, operate it outdoors and ensure it's properly connected to avoid dangerous backfeed, which can put utility workers and others at risk.

*Taking action now before wildfire season intensifies can help protect your home and your community. Learn more at [popud.org](http://popud.org).*

## Employee Spotlight:

### Meet the Administrative Assistant at Box Canyon Dam

Behind the scenes at Pend Oreille PUD's hydro operations, there's a significant amount of coordination, documentation, and regulatory work that helps keep facilities running safely and reliably. This month, we're spotlighting Jamie Dunn, Administrative Assistant at Box Canyon Dam, who plays a key role in supporting the District's dam safety efforts.

Jamie's day centers around providing administrative support for the PUD's Dam Safety program. Both Box Canyon and Sullivan Lake dams operate under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, which require strict oversight to maintain safety and proper operations. Her work includes reviewing documentation, tracking compliance requirements, updating safety plans, and helping coordinate efforts across departments.

"A typical day is making sure FERC requirements are tracked and completed on time," Jamie explains. "That includes maintaining records, updating plans, and supporting hydro operators, technicians, and other departments with administrative processes."

Her role directly supports the safety of the community. "Making sure dam safety items are completed helps protect life, property, and the environment," she says.

One of the most rewarding parts of her job is managing the detailed and often complex coordination that comes with regulatory compliance. FERC letters can include numerous required actions, sometimes involving multiple departments or outside contractors, and Jamie helps keep everything organized and on track.

"It can get very messy," she says, "but it's rewarding helping the department run smoothly and not having to worry about the paperwork side of things."

Jamie has been with the PUD for six and a half years. She joined the organization following the closure of the Pend Oreille Mine in 2019, an opportunity that allowed her to continue living and working in the community she calls home.

Outside of work, Jamie enjoys spending time with her family, including her three dogs and two cats, along with hiking, staying active, taking road trips, and visiting coffee shops with her grandma. She's also a fan of watching Major League Baseball with her husband and enjoying street tacos at their favorite local restaurant.

Thanks to Jamie's attention to detail and coordination behind the scenes, the PUD's dam safety program stays organized, compliant, and focused on protecting the community.



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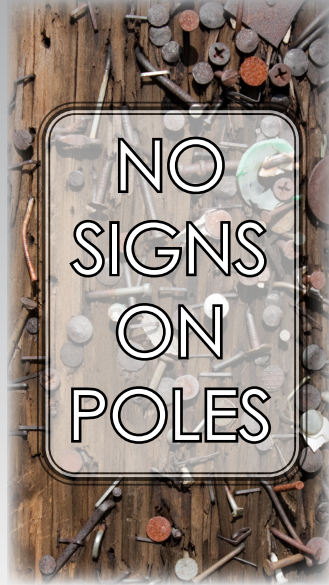
## REMINDER: POWER POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS!

As spring sign season ramps up, Pend Oreille PUD reminds the community: posting signs on power poles is unsafe, costly, and illegal.

Even a single nail or staple can create serious hazards for lineworkers climbing or working around poles. Over time, these small holes let in moisture and insects, shortening the life of the pole and increasing costs for everyone.

State law (RCW 70.54.090) also prohibits attaching signs to power poles. Instead, consider sandwich boards, ground stakes, or weighted signs for promoting yard sales, events, and community gatherings.

By keeping signs off poles, you help protect our crews and maintain reliable service for everyone.



## 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>



## May is Safety Awareness Month

May brings a double reminder to stay safe around both electricity and water. Your PUD encourages customers to take precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

### Electrical Safety Tips:

- Never overload outlets or use damaged cords.
- Keep electrical panels accessible and unplug appliances when not in use.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines when trimming trees or using ladders.
- Call 811 before digging and never touch downed power lines and always assume they are live.
- Use weather-rated cords and keep outdoor equipment dry.

### Dam and Water Safety Tips:

May 31 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day, a reminder to respect the power and hazards of dams and waterways.

- Stay clear of dams and keep a safe distance both upstream and downstream.
- Follow posted signs and barriers.
- Wear a personal flotation device and carry a safety whistle.
- Tell someone your plans before heading out on the water.
- Call 911 if someone is in trouble.

In recognition of Dam Safety Awareness Day, safety whistles will be available to customers at the Newport Administration Building and Box Canyon Visitor's Center while supplies last.

For more safety resources and tips, visit:

<https://popud.org/outage/safety-and-education>.



## CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line: 509.447.3137  
North County: 509.446.3137  
South County: 509.242.3137  
TDD: 800.833.6388

### Commissioners:

Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111  
Dave Rick: drick@popud.org 509.671.7952  
Troy Moody: tmoody@popud.org 509.991.1327

Website: [www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org)



## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, May 5 - Newport  
Tue, May 19 - Newport

Mon, May 25  
Memorial Day  
Office Closed