

# CONNECT



SEPTEMBER 2023

## Wildland Fires & Our System

*Have you ever heard the term “One-Shot”? It is a crucial operating mode that the PUD uses to help prevent wildland fires in our county.*

Each summer our line crews and system operators complete the process of placing most of our distribution breakers and reclosers on “One-Shot” or “Non-Reclose” mode to help prevent fires due to faults on our system. The term one-shot or non-reclose means we reduce the number of times our reclosers operate from three to one. Because there is a chance that sparks are created each time a fault occurs on a line, reducing the number of operations reduces the chance of fire.

For example, when a fault occurs such as a tree falling into a line, the breaker, which is a safety mechanism, shuts the power off. In normal operations, the breaker waits for a fixed amount of time and turns the power back on. If the tree is still in the line, the breaker shuts the power off again, waits the fixed amount of time, and turns back on. If the tree is still there on the third attempt, it is considered a permanent fault and the power remains off. At this point, we will call out a line crew to remove the tree and restore power to our customers.

A fault could also occur when a limb falls into the line. The same operation happens, except that there is a strong possibility that the limb falls off of the line after the first fault. In normal operations, power would remain on after the second attempt because the breaker no longer detected a fault and customers would only see a very short (several second) power outage. In one-shot mode, however, the power stays off after the first fault to decrease the chance that additional sparks may be created by turning the power back on. **The result: power outages are more likely, but the threat of a wildland fire is reduced.**

*Pictured: PUD line crews replacing a broken pole off State Highway 211 & Westside Calispel Road in August of 2023.*



*Photo courtesy of Jet Allen, PUD Line Foreman.*



# CONNECT



ALWAYS ASSUME  
ALL DOWNED LINES ARE **LIVE**

Downed power lines can be **deadly**. Always assume a downed power line is **live** and avoid approaching them or anything near them.

## Use Precaution



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away. Even more in wet conditions.



If you see a downed power line, **call 911**.



**Never drive over** downed power lines or anything in contact with them.



**Never try to move** a downed power line.

If a vehicle contacts a **power line** or **utility pole**...

**STAY AWAY AND CALL 911**



Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.

**35ft**

Warn others to stay at least **35 feet** away.



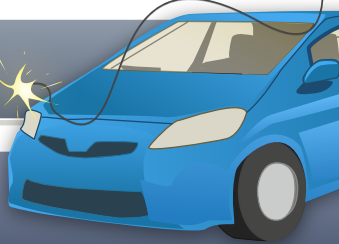
Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see **fire** or **smoke**.



**Tell others** not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.



Call **911**.



## In the Event of Fire or Smoke

**Do not touch** the ground and vehicle at the **same time**.



Jump from the vehicle with your **feet together**.



**Shuffle away**, avoid lifting your feet.



## Fun at the Pend Oreille County Fair



**We enjoyed seeing you at the Pend Oreille County Fair last month. We appreciate all those that stopped by to participate in our photo booth, build a bucket truck, and get hands-on with some cool line hardware and tools. Hope to see you again next year!**

*Pictured: Shannon Johnston, PUD Communications & Utility Services Coordinator and Lilly Hughes, PUD Customer Service Representative.*

Our offices will be closed **Monday, September 4th** in honor of Labor Day. For convenient payment options during office closures, please visit: [PUD Payment Options](#)



## CONNECT WITH US!

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