



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Returns to Normal Operations as Fire Season Ends

PEND OREILLE COUNTY, Wash. – With cooler temperatures and wetter weather returning to Pend Oreille County, Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) has transitioned its electrical system back to normal operating settings following the end of wildfire season.

Throughout the summer, the PUD operated in Fire-Safe Mode, a precautionary setting designed to reduce the likelihood of wildfires caused by electrical equipment. During Red Flag Warnings or extreme fire weather, the PUD implemented Elevated Fire-Safe Mode, an even more sensitive setting that required in-person line inspections before any power restoration.

Now that severe fire danger has subsided, the PUD has returned to normal settings that safely restore power more quickly after brief interruptions.

“Wildfire safety is a shared responsibility, and we sincerely appreciate our customers’ understanding and collaboration as we operated under these fire safety settings this summer,” said Stacie Maier, Director of Engineering & Operations for the PUD. “Thanks to the community’s awareness and our crews’ diligence, we made it through wildfire season without any major incidents.”

The PUD has implemented Fire-Safe Mode seasonally for several years as part of its broader wildfire mitigation strategy, which includes vegetation management, system inspections, and operational adjustments based on weather conditions.

“We want to thank our customers, local emergency responders, and staff for their efforts in keeping our communities safe,” Maier said. “Your patience while we were in these settings and the occasional outages this summer made a real difference.”

Customers can find outage updates, safety information, and preparedness resources at www.popud.org or by following Pend Oreille PUD on social media.

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille PUD was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband