

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Clallam County PUD is joining utilities around the country in celebrating May as National Electrical Safety Month. Safety is a priority at the PUD, both for its employees and customers.

Electricity is an increasing presence in our modern lives. As our reliance on electricity grows, so does the potential for electrical safety hazards. The most recent statistical data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for 2003-2007 indicates an estimated annual average of almost 51,000 home fires involving electrical failure or malfunction. These fires claimed 490 lives, injured more than 1,400 people, and resulted in \$1.3 billion in property damage each year.

Electrical fires are not the only cause for concern. Statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) show that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the United States each year. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reveals that workplace electrical hazards cause more than 2,600 people each year to be injured so severely that they require time off from work. Electrical incidents and fires disrupt lives and result in the loss of billions of dollars in productivity and assets each year.

Fortunately, most electrical fires and incidents can be prevented. Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.

May is springtime, and springtime is a great time to get out and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. For many of us it is a time

to get the yard back in order. Adding color to the home and removing shrubs and limbs that have not made it through the winter are some of the items that we are all looking forward to. Here are some tips to help you get the job done safely.

- Look up and around before trimming those branches or flying that kite.
- Watch overhead power lines when working or playing with long objects (such as ladders, antennas, snow rakes, fishing rods, boat masts or tree trimmers).
- Obey the 10-foot rule: don't allow equipment, tools or objects closer than 10 feet to an overhead power line.
- Don't let anyone climb in trees near overhead power lines.
- Do not plant trees near overhead power lines.
- Downed power lines can kill. Don't guess; call your local electric utility.
- Before digging, excavating, setting a mailbox or fence post, or planting trees and shrubs, remember to call to locate underground utilities.

811 Know what's
below.
CALL before you dig.

PUD Mission: Providing reliable, efficient, safe and low-cost utility services in a financially and environmentally responsible manner.

PUD Commissioners

Our Board holds public meetings most Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at our Port Angeles office, 2431 East Highway 101.

Call (360) 565-3231 or (800) 542-7859 for more information.

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PUD Conservation

Do-It-Yourself Energy Audit

Over the past several editions of *Hot Line* we have laid the foundation for why it is important that the PUD partner with its customers on energy conservation. Not only is energy conservation the lowest cost energy resource, but the mandates of Washington's Energy Independence Act (I-937) place increased pressure on rates and conservation efforts.

Having learned about those issues and understanding that energy conservation is simply the right thing to do anyway, the question then becomes "How can I help?"

One of the first things you can do is to conduct a "Do-It-Yourself Energy Audit" of your home. A home energy audit is a great first step in making your home more energy efficient. An audit can help you assess how

much energy your home uses and evaluate what measures you can take to improve efficiency. But remember, audits alone don't save energy. You need to implement the recommended improvements.

The PUD's web site, www.clallampud.net/conservation/, has a step-by-step guide to help you conduct your own home energy audit. With a simply but attentive walk-through you can spot many home energy wasters. As you audit your

home, be certain to keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you found. This list will help you prioritize your identified energy efficiency needs.

If you are a more visual person, you can check out Clallam PUD-TV at www.clallampud.net to view a short video on how to do a home energy audit.



Mattias Jarvegren, Utility Services Advisor II, conducts a home energy audit on PUD-TV.

The minimal time spent performing a brief do-it-yourself home energy audit can end up saving you very real money on your electric utility bill. And remember, as your PARTNER IN CONSERVATION, Clallam County PUD offers multiple rebate and incentive programs to help you make your home the most energy efficient possible.

Accessing PUD Meters

As springtime arrives, we all enjoy the growth of new leaves, new bushes and the overall greening of our yards. It is important to remember, though, that safe and easy access to your PUD meters is a priority.

Please do not plant obstructive landscaping, brush, and trees that will hinder access to or encroach upon the meters. Also, garbage, lumber, wood, debris, vehicles, RVs and other obstructions must be kept clear of meters and access areas.

PUD policy is that all pathways providing access to any meter shall be a minimum of three feet in width and shall be kept clear of all obstacles and safety hazards, including, but not limited to, landscaping,

brush, debris, obstructions, holes, aggressive or dangerous animals, etc. Your continued assistance in providing safe and adequate meter access is appreciated.



Clallam County PUD, 70 Years

This month we continue our celebration of 70 years of serving the Olympic Peninsula. For much of the year this segment of the newsletter has taken you through a decade by decade look at the history of your locally controlled public power utility – the Clallam County PUD #1. This month we look at the 1990s.

1990-2000

- 1990 – Voters of Clallam County authorized the PUD to offer sewage system services to its customers.
- 1991 – the District was one of eight utilities to commence negotiations with BPA to form the Conservation and Renewable Energy System joint operating agency (CARE).
- 1991 - The Water Department continued its growth with the construction of Local Utility District No. 10 in 1991 that serves Greywolf Elementary School, the Port of Port Angeles Industrial Park, and residences on both sides of Highway 101 in the Carlsborg area.
- 1993 – The District began operating the Sunshine Acres On-Site Sewage Disposal System at Diamond Point.
- 1994 – The District completed two substations in the Sequim area: Dungeness on Cays and Hogback Roads and Evergreen on Evans Road and Old Olympic Highway.

Fuel Mix

Your PUD's electricity comes from the following fuel mix:

Biomass:	0.29%
Coal:	4.88%
Hydroelectric:	83.89%
Landfill Gas:	0.01%
Natural Gas:	1.93%
Nuclear:	8.86%
Other:	0.14%
TOTAL:	100.00%