

## Linemen Get Annual Re-certification

Klickitat PUD held its annual pole top rescue competition and re-certification August 1.

All line crew members successfully completed the re-certification program, and then two teams competed in the pole top rescue competition, including Rob Rising with Martin Taylor, and Ed Lexa with Rob Marlow.

The competition is scored on time and performance.

Each year, KPUD tries to send the winning team to the state competition at the Governor's Safety Conference. The 2006 competition is September 27 and 28 in Spokane.

This year, we will send our 2005 pole top rescue winning team: Rob Rising and Bernie Predeek. KPUD could not send them to last year's competition.

The 2006 team winners, Rob and Martin, are scheduled to attend next year's conference and pole top rescue competition.

The object of the training and competition is to practice safety and re-enact what could happen to an employee if something goes wrong on the job. The scenarios are as close to a real life rescue as we hope our line crews ever have to be.

Joe, our "rescue dummy," was rescued 14 times from the top of a power pole. With each rescue, a lineman climbs the pole, isolates the power to the line and, with the assistance of the crew member on the ground, "Joe" is lowered to safety and the crew members administer CPR.

The crew also practiced a bucket rescue. The bucket rescue works the same as the climbing. However, it is a much quicker means of rescue if you have the ability to safely maneuver the bucket on the boom truck into a safe position.



*Above, Linemen Ed Lexa and partner Rob Marlow work as a team during competition. **Right, Ed rescues Joe.***

This year's competition included two rescues from the top of a tree, to re-certify our new tree-trimming crew members. Dale Stelter and Jeff Speelman rescued "Joe" from a large pine tree that had grown up into the line. Joe was safely lowered to the ground, and Dale entertained his co-workers by rappelling from the tree rather than the typical descent using spikes.

The re-certification and training is required annually by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration and the Washington Industrial Safety & Health Act.

Good Luck to Rob and Bernie in the state competition! ■

