

Use Generators Wisely this Winter

By Ron Schultz

It is that time of year when the weather starts changing. We all should be thinking about having a plan and an outage kit available in the event of a power outage.

Klickitat PUD works hard to keep outages to a minimum and restore power quickly. However, widespread outages resulting from severe storms may prevent power restoration from being done without unforeseen delays.

Many customers have portable generators or fixed generators at their homes and businesses to use in the event of a power outage or emergency. Using and installing a generator correctly and safely protects not only you, but also the PUD's line crews.

A generator without a properly installed transfer switch can back-feed along the power line and electrocute or injure anyone coming into contact with it, including our line workers who might be making repairs.

Klickitat PUD's distribution lines carry voltages of 12,470 volts between phases, and 7,200 volts if measured to ground. When a generator connected to the supply voltage source is unintentionally connected to the PUD system, the same transformer that steps down the voltage to your home or business steps the voltage up to the PUD delivery voltage. This would create a dangerous—and possibly deadly—situation should someone contact that line.

Klickitat PUD recommends that you have any generator transfer switch installation done by a licensed and bonded electrical contractor. The installation must be inspected and approved by the state electrical inspector.

Other tips to remember:

- Make sure extension cords connected to the generator are



in good condition and are rated for the load they are intended to carry. The cord should have a grounding plug.

- Connect only essential equipment and appliances to the generator to prevent overloading it.
- Only use the generator in a well-ventilated environment, as high carbon-monoxide levels can be produced quickly and can be deadly.
- Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter to prevent electrical shocks and electrocution.
- Keep children away from the generator at all times.
- Store fuel safely away from the generator, living areas and any sources of combustion. Make sure the fuel is in properly labeled containers that are suitable for the type of fuel contained.
- Before refueling the generator, always make sure it is turned off and cooled down.
- Have a fully charged fire extinguisher near the generator. Make sure the extinguisher is properly rated to extinguish any fuel sources that could ignite.

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 600 carbon-monoxide poisoning deaths associated with portable generators were reported from 1999 to 2010. Recently, the average deaths per year increased to 81.

About 40 percent of all portable generator-related deaths occurred during the winter when homeowners often use them during weather-related outages.

Almost 70 percent of deaths related to portable power generators occur at home, often with the generator operating in the basement, crawl space, garage or enclosed carport of owners seeking convenience without considering safety. ■

Electrical Safety Tips for the Holidays

Extension cords help brighten the winter holidays by making sure your twinkling lights reach enough outlets. But it is your job to make sure they reach those outlets safely.

Here are some safety tips from Klickitat PUD:

- ▶ Use extension cords for short-term jobs around the holidays, but pack them away when you take down the tree. They are not intended for everyday use.
- ▶ Do not plug extension cords together. Choose one long cord instead.

- ▶ Unplug the cord when it is not in use. An extension cord remains energized until it is unplugged from the wall.
- ▶ Never run extension cords under a rug or across a wet floor.
- ▶ Outdoor uses require cords rated for the outdoors. It is not safe to use indoor cords outside.
- ▶ Replace extension cords that are damaged, cut or feel hot to the touch.

Walkley Scholarship Nominee Selected

By Lori Froehlich

Jordan Brokaw, son of Jim and Diana Brokaw of Goldendale, was selected to be Klickitat PUD's nominee for the \$1,000 Walkley Scholarship 2014 drawing.

This \$1,000 scholarship is sponsored by Glenn and Elvira Walkley. Glenn was a Franklin County PUD Commissioner from 1945 to 1980. The Washington PUD Association's Awards Committee holds the final drawing for the winner of the 2014 scholarship. Nominees included in their drawing are submitted from all Washington public utility districts who are members of the Washington PUD Association.

Jordan's name was drawn from other eligible high school seniors who are children of KPUD employees. The other student included in the drawing was BJ Walter, son of Amanda and Brandon Walter.

Jordan is flying through his busy senior year at Goldendale High School. His favorite classes are trigonometry with Mr. Pagdett, calculus and performance training, where he gets to lift weights. Jordan also participates in track and field and has gone to state twice. His main events are the 300-meter hurdles and 110-meter hurdles.

He is also a lifetime member of the Boy Scouts and is working toward his Eagle Scout rank. He has only three more merit badges to complete before his 18th birthday, and he is well on his way to achieving this goal. Some of his hobbies include reading and longboarding on Maryhill Loops Road or Observatory Drive Road. Longboarding is similar to skateboarding, but the board is longer and built for speed.

Jordan is preparing to attend Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon, next fall, where he would like to study either animation or architecture. He would like to thank the Klickitat PUD for giving him the opportunity to receive this scholarship. He would also like to thank his father, Jim.

"He is awesome," Jordan says. "He took the time and had the patience to teach me everything I know."

Good luck to Jordan in the Washington PUD Association's final drawing for the \$1,000 Walkley Scholarship. ■



Jordan Brokaw

December

- 5—Hood River Holiday Kick-Off Celebration—parade, lighting of the community tree, caroling, cocoa, cookies and Santa; 5 to 8 p.m., downtown Hood River
- 5-6—11th Annual Dallesport Christmas Bazaar, Columbia Hills RV Park, Dallesport
- 5-7—America's Largest Christmas Bazaar, Expo Center, Portland
- 6—Lyle Lions First Saturday breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m., Lyle Lions Community Center
- 6—"I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon" holiday festival, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., downtown White Salmon
- 6—Hope for the Holidays Bazaar, Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 7—Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 318 W. Brooks St., Goldendale
- 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 9—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 10-14—Walking with Dinosaurs, Moda Center, Portland
- 13—Candy Cane Lane Parade, 5 p.m., Columbus Avenue, Goldendale
- 13-14—Last Chance Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 17-21—Walking with Dinosaurs, Tacoma Dome, Tacoma
- 19-21—Collectors West Gun & Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 23—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 25—Christmas; Klickitat PUD offices are closed
- 31—New Year's Eve

January 2015

- 1—New Year's Day; KPUD offices are closed
- 3—Lyle Lions First Saturday breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m., Lyle Lions Community Center
- 7-11—Portland Boat Show, Expo Center, Portland

