



Because the Pacific Northwest is above normal wildland fire potential this summer, KPUD is taking steps to prevent fires related to serving customer load.

Be Prepared for Fire Season

Klickitat PUD continues its efforts to preserve public safety and reduce the risks associated with power distribution.

When KPUD's service territory has an elevated risk of fire danger, the risk of power lines sparking and causing a fire increases. In such situations, additional safety measures are implemented.

In periods of elevated risk, measures include turning selected distribution line reclosers to nonreclose. When a section is put on nonreclose, the power line is rapidly de-energized when an issue is detected.

This reduces the risk of the power line creating sparks. It also means the power goes out more frequently and outages may last longer than normal. Prior to restoring power, KPUD crews patrol all lines downstream of the protective device to ensure any problems are identified and fixed.

Reclosers are designed to de-energize a power line when something comes in contact with the line or equipment and causes a fault. This protects the power line infrastructure and our customers.

Typically, if a fault is detected, reclosers will open, which de-energizes the line. After a preset time, the device closes again, which restores

power to the line. If the condition that caused the fault is still present, the device de-energizes the line again. This repeats a predetermined number of times until the condition has cleared or the device locks out. Similar to getting locked out with failed password attempts.

This is why you often see your power blink one to three times prior to it completely going out. The vast majority of faults are temporary and are cleared from the power line within seconds, which is why reclosers perform the close, reset, restore operation.

When nonreclose is enabled, the recloser opens and cuts off power flow after a single fault is detected, creating a permanent outage when the issue may have actually been temporary. This reduces the risk of sparking a fire, but means customers in these selected areas may see more outages and potentially longer outages.

During fire season, KPUD is elevating its situational awareness by regularly monitoring local conditions and receiving highly detailed customized weather threat forecasts from the Earth Networks meteorological service. This service pulls together multiple data sources to give us detailed daily forecasts for different regions of our service territory ■