



Turning off reclosers during the summer helps utilities prevent power lines from sparking wildfires.

Fire Conditions and Power Interruptions

Klickitat PUD's fire preparedness and mitigation efforts are ever-evolving. KPUD staff consistently monitors the daily weather outlook. As we approach fire season, staff frequently discusses the fire outlook, monitors regional fires, determines where the risk for fire potential lies and confers about what can be done to proactively mitigate those risks.

KPUD has not been affected by Public Safety Power Shutoffs and does not plan to preemptively shut off customers' power due to weather. KPUD has taken steps to prevent fires, including adopting alternative settings within our infrastructure to reduce the risk of a fire starting due to power lines.

To mitigate the risk of power lines sparking fires, we have altered settings on specific protective devices called reclosers in fire-prone areas. A recloser functions as a circuit breaker for sections of line. Under normal circumstances, they are

programmed to attempt to automatically open and close while trying to clear a fault on the power line. If the recloser is unsuccessful after a few attempts, the recloser deenergizes the power line, causing a power outage.

To prevent fires, KPUD has eliminated the reclosing action, causing the immediate deenergizing of the power line when a fault is detected. This ensures we can locate the damage, whether it is a downed line, a tree limb or more extensive damage that could spark a fire.

Part of KPUD's system improvement and maintenance plan this year included the installation of more than 45 additional reclosers in areas with high fire danger. These supplementary reclosers help isolate the effects of a faulted power line, reduce the miles of line to patrol and lessen the number of customers affected by a power outage.

During fire season, outage response

procedures require that all power lines affected by an outage behind an altered recloser be inspected prior to the crew attempting to reenergize the power line. Staff has assessed locations to predetermine how many personnel are required to patrol, the necessary equipment—such as drones or ATVs—and an estimated time to perform the patrols completely.

These fire season patrol requirements almost guarantee a delayed restoration timeframe. Areas are evaluated weekly so considerations of incoming weather patterns can be implemented and crews can enable these alternate settings. If the potential for extended power restoration times is present for customers, automated phone calls notify customers of the possible delay.

Take a moment to confirm your customer contact information with KPUD by accessing your account on SmartHub, in the app or online portal, or by contacting customer service at 800-548-8357. You may also use SmartHub to report your power outage and submit a photo of any observed damage. Keep clear of any downed power lines. There is no guarantee the lines are deenergized, even if your home is without power. ■