

Why Do My Lights Blink?

This is a frequent question asked at your electric utility. Usually, blinking lights are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a power pole, or an animal or tree branch coming in contact with an energized power line.

Because today's microprocessors are so intolerant, brief outages are more noticeable than they were in the past. Actually, when lights blink, it can indicate our equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment.

Klickitat PUD's distribution system includes special devices, called re-closers, which operate much like a switch or a self-resetting circuit breaker. Whenever there is a short circuit on the line, the re-closer interrupts the flow of electricity. If the short circuit is temporary, which is often the case, the re-closer permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service—meaning your lights blink.

Without this device, every short

circuit—temporary or otherwise—would cause the power to be off until Klickitat PUD could send a lineman to restore service. Usually, these re-closers will operate automatically three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. The re-closer operation protects the lines from damage.

A word of caution: If you have lights blinking on a continuous basis, it may indicate a problem, and you should contact our office. While we strive to deliver steady, consistent and high-quality power, sometimes circumstances beyond our control cause power disturbances.

For protection of your valuable appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, we recommend protective power quality devices. An estimated 80 percent of power quality problems originate inside the home. Culprits include motors starting up or shutting down, improper electrical wiring and grounding, and overloaded circuits.

If you experience continuous blinks or improper power quality, please check the electrical equipment and wiring in your house first, but call us anytime. We are always here and happy to help you. ■

Watch for Back-to-School Kids

On average, 26 children in the United States are killed every year while getting on or off a school bus, or while waiting at the bus stop. To avoid such tragedies, drivers are reminded to:

- ▶ Carefully back out of driveways. Watch for children walking to the bus stop.
- ▶ Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street and playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark.
- ▶ Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- ▶ Obey the law. Yellow flashing lights on a bus mean motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights mean motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus starts moving again. Unless there is a median, oncoming traffic also must stop.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST 2015

- 5—Sunset at the Zoo, 5 to 8 p.m., Portland
- 7—Vans Warped Tour, Expo Center, Portland
- 8—Taylor Swift with Vance Joy concert, CenturyLink Field, Seattle
- 8—Cruise the Gorge Cruise-in, The Dalles
- 9—Maryhill Music, Mary Kadderly with Dan Gildea, Maryhill Winery
- 10—Dallesport Drag Race, Dallesport
- 11—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 11-15—Umatilla County Fair & Rodeo, Hermiston
- 12—Reel Science: The Never-Ending Story, OMSI, Portland
- 12-16—Skamania County Fair and Timber Carnival, Stevenson
- 13-16—Wasco County Fair, Hunt Park, Tygh Valley
- 15—Ranch sorting, Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 15-16—Festival of Wheels, Ekone Park, Goldendale
- 19-22—Morrow County Fair, Heppner
- 19-23—Sherman County Fair, Moro
- 20-23—Klickitat County Fair & NPRA Rodeo, "Wild Flowers & Wagon Wheels," Goldendale
- 22—Sunrise at the Zoo, 8 to 9 a.m., Portland
- 25—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 25-29—Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo, Kennewick
- 26-30—Motorcycle Rally in the Gorge, Hood River County Fairgrounds, www.soundrider.com/rally/default.aspx
- 28-9/7—Oregon State Fair, Salem
- 29—Huey Lewis and the News concert, 7 p.m., Oregon Zoo, Portland

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 5—Annual Columbia Gorge Aluminum Man Triathlon, (541) 296-9533
- 5—Bickleton Car Show and Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bickleton
- 11-12—Relay For Life, Goldendale

