

The Life of a Lineman

Crews work together to ensure you have safe, reliable electricity

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, crews climb into their trucks and head out.

Klickitat PUD's linemen form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power—and the people who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smartly and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air, sometimes near live electrical lines or behind a hot-stick.

On a typical day, lineworkers maintain electrical distribution and transmission lines, or build service to new homes and businesses.

They have a lot on their plates. But when Klickitat PUD's operations center calls with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence over a lineworker's daily to-do list. These brave men are always on call. Crews stand by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during the nastiest weather?

Not many people are willing to face



Klickitat PUD line crews work day and night to keep the power flowing to community homes and businesses.

storms, but KPUD's lineworkers face the elements daily—sometimes the most inhospitable weather—all to serve you.

Lineworkers also focus on safety. The lives of co-workers are on the line.

Job safety is important to everyone, no matter the occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip-ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or a life.

That is one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They are family.

That sense of family extends to electric utilities across the nation. We help other utilities in their time of need, and they extend that service to us. It is reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of lineworkers stands ready

to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment.

The equipment is tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better.

In conjunction with National Lineman Appreciation Day, Klickitat PUD extends a thank you to all linemen and their brave contributions to provide safe, reliable electricity to the customers of Klickitat County.

Today—and every day—please take a moment to thank them. KPUD's linemen are the heart of the public utility nation, proud and strong. ■

Klickitat PUD's Budget Payment Plan

Do fluctuating power bills strain your budget during times of heating or cooling? If so, sign up for Klickitat PUD's budget payment plan to stay on track. You can begin the plan any time your account balance is zero. We recommend June to start building a reserve for winter.

How does the budget plan work?

Your monthly payments are based on energy consumption during the past 12 months for the location. Annually, the PUD recalculates your budget payment. This takes place each June or after a PUD rate increase. When your budget payment is recalculated, one of the following occurs:

- If you paid for more energy than you used, we recalculate your new budget payment using your credit balance, which may reduce your new budget payment.
- If you used more energy than you paid for while on the budget plan, your new payment will increase to recover the shortage and account for energy consumption going forward.

Will I know how much electricity I use each month?

Your meter will be read as usual. Rural customers should continue providing reads by the 20th of each month.

What if I am unable to make a payment?

You must pay your budget payment in full by the due date each month. Otherwise, you may be removed from the plan. If you are unable to make your payment, please call customer service.

Can I cancel my budget payment plan?

You can cancel at any time. However, your account will be reconciled at that time. If you have overpaid, you will be credited on your next bill. If you have underpaid, the outstanding balance is due on the next bill. If you have been removed from the budget payment plan for any reason, you must settle any past due charges before re-enrolling in the plan.

There is no charge to participate in the budget payment plan. It is free and strongly encouraged. You can enroll in the automatic draft payment plan at the same time. The services complement one another.

The budget plan does not include non-metered services such as streetlights, yard lights, water or wastewater basic fees. These charges are added to your monthly budget amount.

Submit your request online or contact White Salmon's office at (509) 493-2255 or (800) 493-8385, or the Goldendale office at (509) 773-5891 or (800) 548-8357. ■

