

Why Do the Lights Blink?

Klickitat PUD staff often is asked why consumer lights blink.

Blinking lights usually 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 in the past. When the lights blink, it actually may indicate the PUD's 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 often is the case, the re-closer allows 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 shut off the power until Klickitat PUD could send a lineman to restore service.

Re-closers usually 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. You should contact the PUD. 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 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 please call us anytime. We are always here and happy to help you. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 2018

3-5—Trout Lake Fair, Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m.,

4—Goldendale Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park,

4—Stone Cool Car Show and Dance Bash, 3 to 9 p.m., Stoneridge Event Center, Pasco

4—pFriem Family Brewers 6th Anniversary Party, 4 to 9 p.m., Hood River Waterfront Park Amphitheater

7—National Night Out, 5 to 7:30 p.m., Southridge Sports and Events Center, Kennewick

10—Mid-Columbia Libraries Glow Hike, 8:30 to 10 p.m., Trailhead Park/Badger Mountain, Richland

10—Cruise the Gorge Neon Cruise, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., downtown The Dalles

10-11—Vancouver Brewfest, Friday, 4 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m., Esther Short Park, Vancouver

1—Goldendale Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park,

1—Cruise the Gorge Show in the Shade, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sorosis Park, The Dalles

1—Second Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum, Hood River

11-12—W.E. Rock Sportsman Rock Crawl, 9 a.m., Broken Boulder Farms, Goldendale

12—Dufur Classic Car Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dufur City Park

12—Cruise the Gorge Classic Drags, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, Dallesport

12—Sugar Ray performs at Clover Island, 5 to 10 p.m., Kennewick

12—Hood River Organic Harvest Dinner 2018, 1 to 8:30 p.m., Hood River Organic Orchard

14—KPUD Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale

14-18—Skamania County Fair & Timber Carnival, Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson

18—Goldendale Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park

18—Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life fundraiser, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Reach Museum, Richland

18—Battle on the Columbia Martial Arts Tournament, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Southridge Sports and Events Complex, Kennewick

18-19—Collector Car & Classic Boat Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., various locations, Lake Oswego, Oregon

18-19—Free County Weekend, Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale

21-25—Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo, Benton County Fairgrounds, Kennewick

23-26—Klickitat County Fair & NPRA Rodeo, Klickitat County Fairgrounds, Goldendale

23-26—Wasco County Fair, Wasco County Fairgrounds, Tygh Valley, Oregon

24-26—Vancouver Wine & Jazz Festival, Friday, 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m., Esther Short Park, Vancouver

25—Goldendale Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park,

25—Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters, 6 to 10 p.m., The Granada Theatre, The Dalles

28—KPUD Commissioner's meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale

31-9/2—Maryhill Windwalk Gravity Games, Maryhill Loops Road, Goldendale