

Wildfire Mitigation Outreach Update

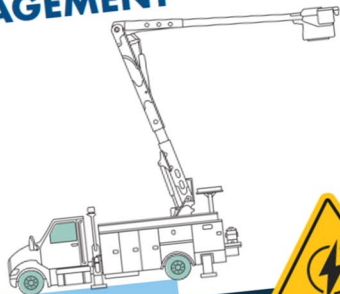
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FIRE SAFETY OUTAGE MANAGEMENT

What to expect

Throughout the summer, the PUD will monitor the weather forecasts, including predicted wind gusts, humidity, fuel moisture and potential fire behavior. The conditions when Chelan PUD would consider a fire safety outage are generally more extreme than a red flag warning.



Early Warning

When extreme fire weather is forecasted as imminent, we will send customer alerts as early and often as possible.

Ongoing Updates

We will provide ongoing updates through email, social media, local news outlets, partner agencies, and chelanpud.org.

Safety Inspections

After extreme weather has passed, crews will inspect and repair the lines before power is safely restored.

Power Restoration

Power outages may last 24 hours or more, depending on conditions and the amount of repair required to safely restore power.



How to prepare:

- Update your contact information: chelanpud.org/updateyourinfo
- Sign up for Everbridge emergency notifications through Chelan County Emergency Management
- Create an emergency plan. Stock up on water, non-perishable food, cash and medications.
- Consider a back-up generator for critical needs, such as well pumps or refrigerators.
- If you rely on electricity to operate medical equipment, sign up for the Electrical Medical Needs Registry: chelanpud.org/medform



Learn more

Check out chelanpud.org/fsom

Questions?

email
customeroutreach@chelanpud.org

Community drop-in meetings:

June 18 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Leavenworth PUD Auditorium
222 Chumstick Highway

June 19 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Beehive Grange
4593 Squilchuck Road
Wenatchee

June 20 | 6-8 p.m.
Entiat Fire Hall
2200 Entiat Way

Community Outreach Progress

| Audiences | Timeline | Tactics | Outcome |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Fire, emergency management | April/May | Interviews with fire chiefs, partner agencies | Met with 9 agencies, majority supportive |
| All customers | June 3 | Press release, media interviews Website updates | About a dozen media articles, published in all local media outlets |
| Customers in fire-prone areas | June 13-14 | Mailed postcards, email | Sent to about 9,000 people, email 60% open rate, responded to about 30 customer emails/phone calls |
| Customers in fire-prone areas | June 18-20 | Community drop-in sessions | Leavenworth: 35 Wenatchee: 12 Entiat: 106 |
| All customers | June 21 | Connected newsletter | Mailed to 50,000 people |
| Staff | May-July | Incident command tabletop exercise, linemen briefings, PUDToday, GM Forum, PUDcast | |

Key Messages

We know the devastation of wildfires. We also recognize the impact on our customers when power is out. The decision to use a fire safety outage is a **rarely used measure of last resort**.

Notifications: Our goal is to alert customers 48 hours in advance of a potential fire safety outage.

Be prepared:

- Sign up for Everbridge emergency alerts
- Update your contact information with Chelan PUD
- Create an outage emergency plan for your home or business
- Join the Electrical Medical Needs Registry if you rely on electricity for medical equipment



Key Themes

As customers considered emergency plans for their homes and businesses, common questions included:

Water: Concerns about water availability for commercial, community water systems, residential use and fire suppression

Communications: Lack of cell coverage during outages in some areas

Preparedness: Lots of interest in back-up generation, especially for medically vulnerable populations and water systems

Next Steps

- Collecting and reviewing community feedback and considering ways to help address concerns
- Reviewing communication connectivity and exploring options in Entiat area
- Recruiting for Wildfire Program Manager position (new) – Summer 2024
- Planning for additional community outreach in Fall 2024
- Submit Wildfire Mitigation Plan to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources – Fall 2024
- Ongoing wildfire mitigation planning work will be informed by customer-owner feedback

Questions?

Learn more at chelanpud.org/FSOM

Customers can send their questions to
CustomerOutreach@chelanpud.org