

# Power Lines

Photo by Tom Schultz

A monthly newsletter from Columbia River People's Utility District

May 2013

## Warning: Telephone Scammers Targeting PUD Customers

We'd like you to know about a telephone scam that has been reported in the area.

A few PUD customers have received calls threatening to disconnect power if payment isn't made immediately over the phone via credit card, or by purchasing a pre-paid credit card and calling back with the code. The callers identify themselves as representatives of PGE or the PUD.

Customers who receive suspicious phone calls are encouraged to note the phone number on their caller ID, the phone number they are asked to call with the payment information, and

any other information that the caller provides. Don't give the caller any information; instead end the call and contact the local police and the PUD to report the call.

The PUD provides several types of notification to customers who are facing disconnection for nonpayment, including mailed notices, door hangers and phone calls. The PUD also offers several payment options, including visiting local pay stations, visiting the PUD office, or paying online at [www.crpud.net](http://www.crpud.net).

"We would never demand a payment only by credit card or prepaid credit

**"If you have any doubts about a caller's identity, don't give them any information. The safest thing to do is to hang up and then call our office at (503) 397-0590."**

*Sheila Duehring,  
Accounting & Customer Service Manager*

card," said Accounting and Customer Service Manager Sheila Duehring. "We'll always offer other payment options, so if that's the only choice being offered, it's not the PUD calling you."



## Enter the 2014 Calendar Photo Contest

Our annual calendar features scenic photographs of Columbia County that are selected through a photography contest. The deadline for entries is September 15th. Entry forms and contest details are available at [www.crpud.net/calendar](http://www.crpud.net/calendar).

Photo by Tammy Long



24 Hour Outage & Emergency Hot Line: (503) 397-1844 • Email: [info@crpud.org](mailto:info@crpud.org)  
Website: [www.crpud.net](http://www.crpud.net) • Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

## Buy Wind Power From the PUD

For as little as \$2 a month, you can buy wind power and help support the development of new renewable energy resources in Oregon. Using renewable energy reduces our need to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity, helping to create a cleaner future.

**Wind Power Blocks:** Buy 100 kWh "blocks" for \$2 each per month.

**100% Wind:** Buy all your electricity from wind farms for an additional 1.5¢ per kilowatt-hour per month.

Fill out the form on reverse to sign up.



# Play Safely Outside With These Tips

Be aware of power lines. Always assume they are "live & dangerous."

Never touch outdoor wires.

Fly kites and model airplanes in fields, parks or large open spaces - safely away from trees and power lines.

Don't try to retrieve anything from power lines or electrical equipment.

Don't climb trees near power lines.

Keep electrical toys, appliances and tools at least 10 feet from pools, puddles or other wet surfaces.

Never climb a utility pole or play on or around electrical equipment. Don't go into a substation for any reason.

Never attempt to rescue people or pets who have come into contact with electrical equipment. Call 9-1-1 immediately.



## Please Don't Hang Anything on Utility Poles



We know it's tempting to hang signs, basketball hoops and other items on wooden utility poles, but there are good reasons why you shouldn't:

- 1. Attachments endanger our employees who climb poles.** A tiny puncture in a worker's gloves can expose him to electric shock, causing serious injury or death.
- 2. Attachments damage poles.** When the sealed outer layers of a pole are pierced, moisture and insects creep in and cause damage that shortens the life of the pole, increasing maintenance costs.
- 3. We risk fines.** The National Electric Safety Code prohibits these types of pole attachments. We risk fines from the Oregon Public Utility Commission when prohibited items are attached to our poles.

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe, reliable system.

## Efficiency Rebates for Homeowners

- ENERGY STAR® New Appliances
- Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling
- Ductless Heating & Cooling Systems
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Duct Sealing
- Insulation Upgrades
- Replacement Windows
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Marathon® Water Heaters
- ENERGY STAR® Manufactured Homes
- ENERGY STAR® New Site-Built Homes

**Contact our Energy Experts to Learn More: (503) 366-5470 or [experts@crpud.org](mailto:experts@crpud.org)**

## Sign Up for Choice Energy Wind Power

It's easy to buy wind power. Just fill out and return this form, call us at (503) 397-0590 or visit [www.crpud.net/wind](http://www.crpud.net/wind). Your purchase will be added to your electric bill beginning with your next monthly statement. *Charges for Choice Energy Wind Power are in addition to your regular electric charges.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

PUD Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choice Energy Program Options:

- Wind Power Blocks - I want to purchase blocks of wind power.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of 100 kWh blocks x \$2 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month.
- 100% Wind - I want to purchase all my electricity from wind farms for an additional 1.5¢ per kilowatt-hour of electricity I use.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

