



Power Lines

A monthly newsletter from Columbia River People's Utility District

May 2008

Metal Theft - Dangerous & Costly

Utilities in Oregon are reporting an increase in metal theft at substations and along power lines. Stealing copper from the distribution system is a dangerous - sometimes deadly - practice that increases costs for all PUD customers.

Safety is our first concern

When thieves steal copper wire from our distribution system or substations, they put themselves at great risk, often for little benefit. They also endanger our line crews who work to maintain our distribution system. In many cases, thieves are stealing grounding wire that is designed to protect workers and to prevent equipment failures.



Theft increases costs

Metal theft costs you money. Replacing the stolen items and repairing the damage increases maintenance costs, which means higher electric rates for everyone.

Report suspicious activity

We need your help to stop metal theft. If you see suspicious activity around PUD substations, power poles or other electrical equipment, please call 9-1-1 immediately and report it. You can also call us at (503) 397-1844 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report suspicious activity or damage to PUD substations or equipment.

Drive-Up Payment Service Notice

Drive-up payment service at the PUD office is unavailable this month. The drive-up payment drop box was damaged during a burglary that took place the weekend of April 12th - 13th. The damaged box has been removed and is being replaced.

Drive-up payment service will be available again beginning in June. For more information on the burglary, visit www.crpud.net or contact Customer Accounts at (503) 397-0590 or custsvc@crpud.org.

Work safely around electricity

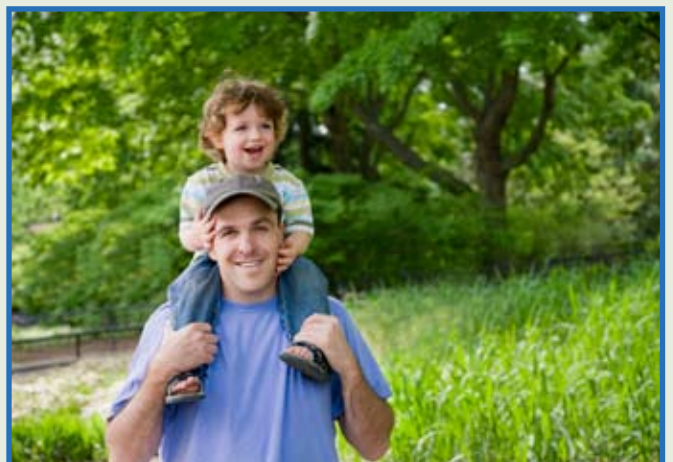
- Never touch tools or appliances while you are wet or standing in water.
- Put power tools down if you're upset, angry or in a hurry. Wait until you can focus on the job.
- Never use power tools near live electrical wires.
- Don't climb trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Never remove guards from power tools or lawn products. They are there to protect you.
- Outdoor receptacles should be protected with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI).
- Use tools & extension cords marked for outdoor use.
- Don't wear loose clothing or jewelry when using power tools.
- Read and follow the manufacturers' instructions for all power tools.



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

Simplify life with *Always Current* Automatic Bill Payment

- Receive your statement by email
- Your payment is automatically deducted from your account
- View your payment history and electricity usage online, anytime



Please leave utility poles alone

While it can be tempting to hang signs, bird houses, basketball hoops and other items on utility poles, there are good reasons why you shouldn't:

- 1. Attachments endanger our employees who climb the pole to perform maintenance or repair work.** A tiny puncture in a worker's rubber gloves can expose him to severe electric shock, causing serious injury or death.
- 2. Attachments damage utility 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 for all PUD customers.
- 3. The National Electric Safety Code prohibits utility pole attachments.** We risk fines from the Oregon Public Utility Commission when items are attached to our poles.

Thank you for helping us to maintain safe facilities for our employees and our customers.

Journeyman Lineman Cary Gray and Apprentice Jake Feakin attach equipment to a new utility pole in St. Helens.



Buy ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, earn PUD rebates

We offer rebates for ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators. Rebate amounts are as follows:

- Clothes washer with electric hot water heater - \$75
- Clothes washer with gas, propane oil hot water heater - \$25
- Dishwasher - \$25
- Refrigerator - \$25
- Freezer - \$25



Contact our Energy Experts at experts@crpud.org or (503) 366-5470 for more information.

Tax credits also available

The state of Oregon offers \$60 - \$180 tax credits on energy-efficient appliances. Their qualification standards differ slightly from ours - for more information visit <http://www.oregon.gov/energy>.

\$250 Rebate on Marathon® Lifetime Electric Water Heaters

In the market for a new water heater? Buy a Marathon®. Marathon electric water heaters carry a lifetime warranty against tank leakage and are the most energy-efficient water heaters on the market.

We offer a \$250 rebate on Marathon water heaters and 0%, 12 month financing with approved credit.

Marathon water heaters are available from several local dealers. To learn more, visit www.crpud.net or contact our Energy Experts at experts@crpud.org or (503) 366-5470.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Sign up for *Always Current* - Automatic payment with email billing

Complete this form and return with payment or submit to: Columbia River PUD, PO Box 1193, St. Helens, OR 97051.

****Please include a voided blank check with this form.****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

PUD Customer Number: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Choose a Password: _____

Add Budget Pay option? (Equal monthly payments, amount calculated each March)

Yes No

Bank Name: _____

Name on Account: _____

Bank Routing #: _____

Bank Account #: _____

Type of Account: Checking Savings

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**COLUMBIA RIVER
PUD**
A COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY