

The Other Outage Season—Underground Faults

Unlike in winter, spring outages can occur when skies are clear and hardly a breeze is blowing. In fact, that's usually when they occur, because they're caused by moisture rising out of warming soil and moving past 30-year-old electric lines buried directly in the ground. A pinhole-sized nick is all it takes to lose power to a neighborhood.

Today most of the PUD's underground wire is placed in conduit. Not so in many neighborhoods built in the 80s or before, like Kala Point or Port Ludlow where trenches were dug, and lines were placed.

An underground fault occurs when the outer sheath of a line wears through to the copper within that acts

as the ground. This is known as a "phase-to-ground", causing the outage which is detected by the PUD's outage management system.

Line crews can quickly identify the region via mapping, but defining an exact location requires a mix of experience and a specialized device called a "thumper". A thumper connects to the isolated line section, sending a high voltage pulse that, above ground, can be heard by the line crew. The line crew must walk the length of the isolated line to locate the sound emitted when the voltage exits the fault. The thumper allows crews to step-up voltage until the

[see Season on next page](#)

Know Before You Grow—Vegetation Policy

Keep vegetation away from utility equipment to reduce outages.

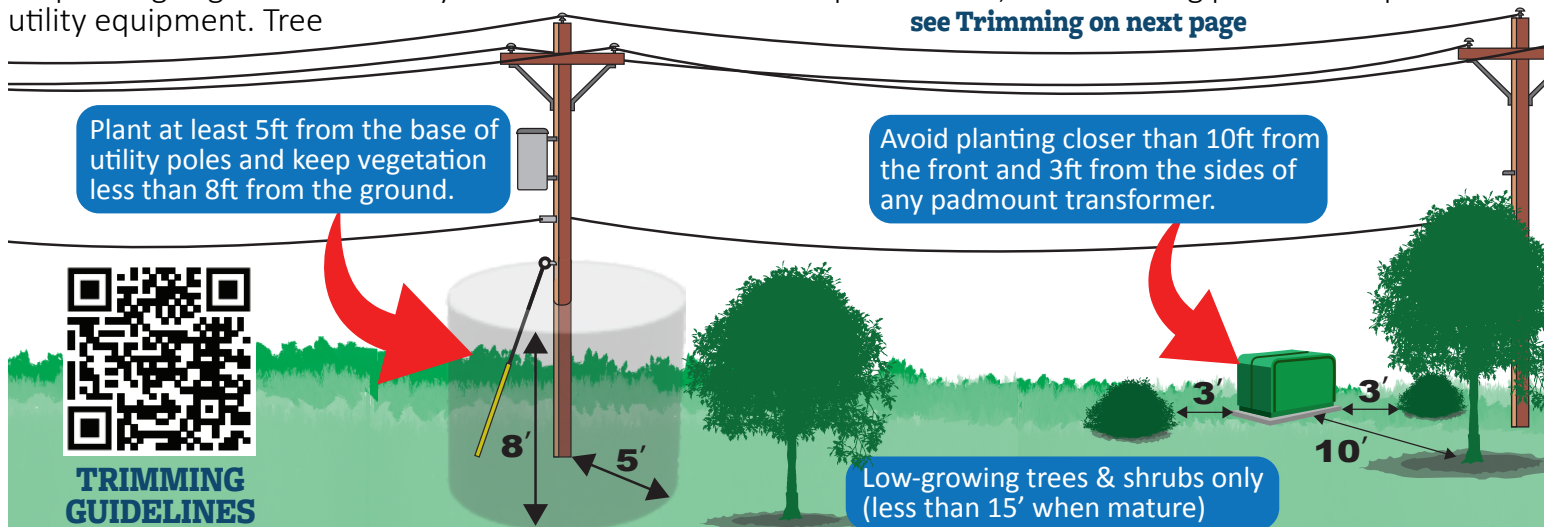
The PUD commission approved an updated vegetation management policy to help better define utility rights of way, easements, and line clearance expectations for safe access by line crews.

The policy addresses current and future concerns for planting vegetation that may interfere with utility equipment. Tree

and vegetation contact is the number one cause of outages in Jefferson County.

Homeowners who are considering planting near a utility right-of-way should consult the updated policy to better understand required clearances, customer responsibilities, and trimming policies and practices

[see Trimming on next page](#)



Meter Installations Now County Wide

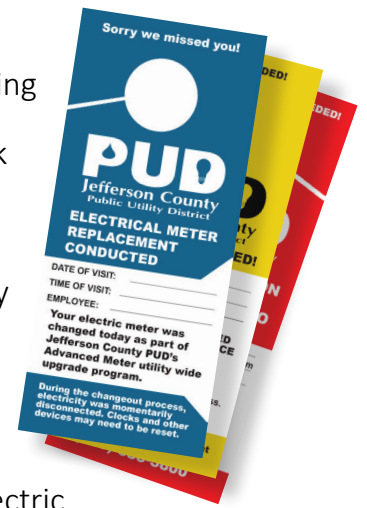
After going neighborhood by neighborhood between the U-Haul dealer and Port Hadlock, PUD crews are now installing meters district wide.

The PUD's goal is to replace all of its 21,000 electric meters (some of which are over 50 years old) with new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by the end of 2023. AMI meters report reads to the PUD over the air instead of requiring drive up or drive-by reads. They also allow for remote disconnect and reconnect and better incorporate EV charging and renewables like solar or wind.

Please ensure that our crews can access meters on your property. Be sure to remove any clutter or barriers that might get in the way. The meter is owned by the PUD and providing safe access to it

is a requirement of receiving electric service.

Meter readers will knock on your door prior to installation to alert you to a very short power outage. After the visit they will leave a color-coded door hanger indicating either successful replacement, repairs needed, obstructions to the meter, or potential electric hazards. Learn more on our website: jeffpud.org/meterprogram.



Season cont...

fault is found. Dirt work contractors then begin to dig. Crews carefully navigate underground faults to avoid other utilities in the area by using specialized vacuum digging devices and digging by-hand.

Once the fault is located, line crew replace the segment and carefully backfill around the line. Further work compacting the soil or applying asphalt may be required as well.

Underground lines require significantly more time to repair compared to overhead lines.



Section of underground line removed during repairs in Kala Point.

Construction of a new underground line is typically 3-5x the cost of overhead.

Overhead line sections prone to repeat outages are considered for undergrounding to save on outage response long-term.

Trimming cont...

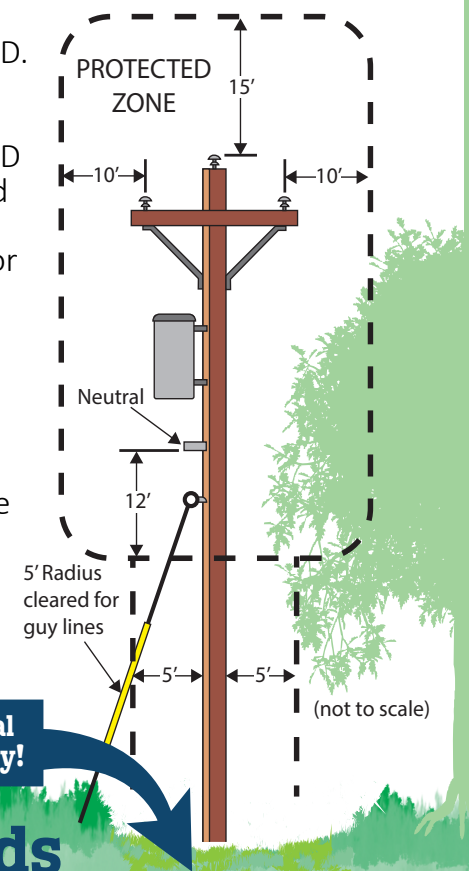
employed by the PUD.

During standard tree removal, crews employed by the PUD cut and leave behind 18-inch-long rounds in the right of way for use by the general public.

Policy updates outline emergency falling of trees and the necessity to leave a tree once the situation is made safe.

Learn more on jeffpud.org/report-tree-problem

Noxious weed removal helps service reliability!



Getting at the Roots: Noxious Weeds

The PUD is partnering with the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board and AmeriCorps staff to control noxious weeds along transmission line corridors. The PUD needs to keep transmission corridors clear to access lines in case of needed repair.

Crews will remove noxious scotch broom,

poison hemlock, spotted knapweed, and common teasel from line corridors between the Paper Mill and Anderson Lake Rd on June 20-29 and July 18-21.

Questions about the program? Contact the Noxious Weed Coordinator, Sophie DeGroot at sdegroot@co.jefferson.wa.us or (360)316-9332.

**Publicly Owned
Not For Profit
Locally Operated**

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Started June 1, 2022

What to Recycle

Glass



Clean
bottles
and jars
ONLY

Labels OK

NO lids
NO blue glass
NO other glass
NO dirty containers!



Plastic and Cans



ONLY bottles & jugs
NO lids
NO other plastics!

*see back page for more info



Metal cans
NO loose lids

NO used plastic
bottles for motor oil,
antifreeze, weed
killer, etc.

Recycling **MUST** BE rinsed thoroughly, empty, and loose in the bins—not bagged!

Corrugated Cardboard



Look for the
wavy lines

CLEAN CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
NO food, wax or plastic coating

Curbside service: bundle & tie
For all: flatten



Mixed Paper



Boxes, paper bags, newspaper,
magazines, office paper, junk mail

If it's not on this list, we can't recycle it! No "wish cycling" please!

Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off locations

Jefferson County Recycling Center (Skookum Contract Services)	301 County Landfill Road, off Jacob Miller Road just outside of Port Townsend. Open Tuesday - Saturday from 9 am to 4:30 pm, except County holidays. Skookum also offers household and commercial paper shredding and electronics recycling services. 360-385-7678.
Quilcene Drop Box Facility	295312 Highway 101, south of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9-Noon and 12:30-4:30pm. Closed County holidays.
Port Hadlock	202 Elkins Road. Open 24 hours/7 days a week.
Kala Point	20 Village Drive. Open at the discretion of the Village Association.
Port Ludlow Village Center	40 Village Way. Open 24 hours/7 days a week.
Household Hazardous Waste Program	Collection events will be held throughout Jefferson County. Refer to www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com for the next event.

Secure your load!
It's the law.

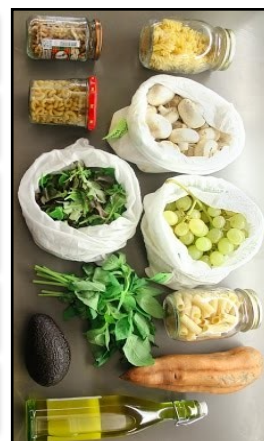
If an item is not on our list, it's not recyclable in Jefferson County!

Separating our recycling ensures it is recyclable and reduces contamination.

Want to make a difference? Try this inverted waste pyramid:



Zero Waste Shopping



Recycle plastics by TYPE, not by NUMBER

Numbers are outdated and misleading. They were not created to tell whether something is recyclable. They stand for which resin is the primary ingredient in the plastic. Any plastic besides bottles and jugs **contaminates** the load!

- Prescription pill bottles are **NOT** recyclable.
- Empty plastic bottles that contain hazardous materials like motor oil, antifreeze, weed killer, etc. go in the trash. Bottles containing these products can be brought to HHW collection events.



Compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes

They can be dropped off locally at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. **DO NOT** put them in glass recycling. Due to their mercury content, **they are hazardous waste!**



Batteries

- Lithium, button, and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. These are **FIRE HAZARDS** in the landfill!



- Alkaline batteries are considered safe to put in the trash. They are **NOT** recyclable.



Department of Public Works
Jefferson County, Washington



Questions? www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com